

International hardcore punk magazine

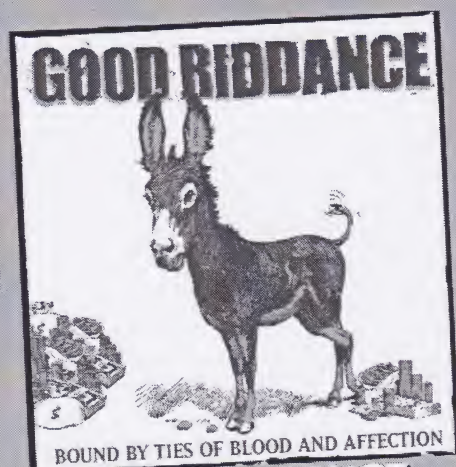
Inside Knowledge Magazine



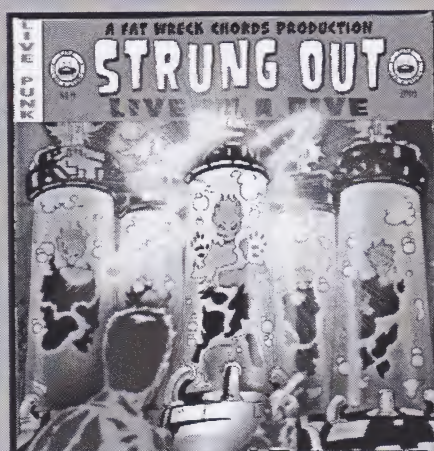
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ISSUE 7

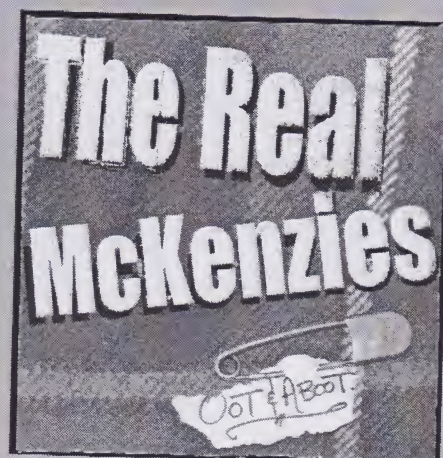
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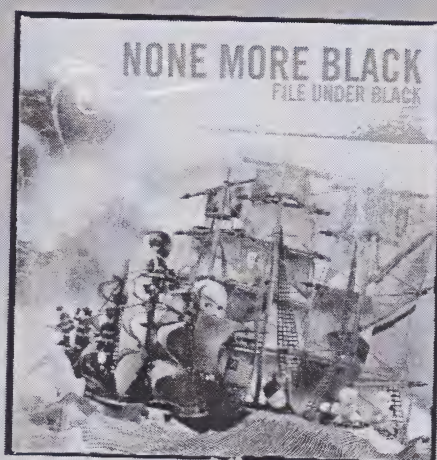
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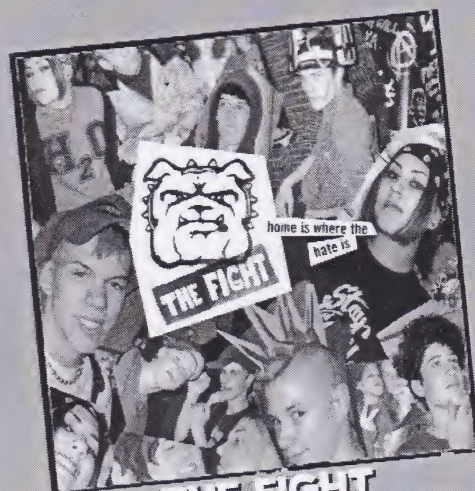
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As with most introductions we have had so far we always talked about the process of making that particular issue. Things that went wrong and things that went really smoothly. This time things really went perfect. Interviews got in on time, all the latest and important releases and of course some advertisements.

Also we have had the opportunity to design the program booklet for the Groezrock festival, which was held at the Belgian town of Meerhout on April 26th. And amazing experience that was, and besides that good promotion for our zine and site.

Speaking of our site, as you might have noticed there are differences in between the reviews in this zine you're holding and the site, which can be visited under www.insideknowledge.net. A short explanation.... Insideknowledge.net is not an e-zine in the sense that all reviews we write will appear on the Internet once they are done; we keep some of them aside to keep the paper zine interesting. The reviews on our site are more like a database for all people that either don't have our previous issues of the magazine or would like to search for a particular releases to see what we had to say about that. Having said this, there's also a difference in what we use for site and for magazine. Our magazine only has this much pages and is really reserved for all hardcore / punk and oi reviews. We do however get several metal, grind and even pop releases for a review. They will only appear on our site. And even though bands like Judas Priest, Nuclear Assault and Fear Factory are cool in their own right they don't have a place in our zine (yet....). Nevertheless many people read the metal reviews to so that's really cool (and thanks for checking them out). Last thing to be said about the stuff send in for a review. Please don't send any CDR's, tapes or cd's without the artwork. Lyrics, artwork and packaging are an important part of the musicians' message!

An apology goes out to several other zines that have send in a copy for a review. For Inside Knowledge #6 something went wrong with the zine reviews, but we hope this time there are a bit more of those too.

Enough of the technical stuff... I have run out of space to talk about how cool this zine is. Oh, well you figure it out.

See you next time!

On behalf of the IK-crew,

Martijn Welzen

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RANDY

'Wipe off your shoes. Dust off your suit. Randy is back in town, desperate for some cheap thrills. That's right folks, Randy has returned to light up your boring life with a new album called "Welfare Problems". 'hmmm let's have a chat then.

It's a rainy day somewhere in Belgium. And about 2 pm I had a chat with the bass-player from Randy, Johan. We were sitting in a tiny car, hiding for the rain and guitar-noise coming out of the tents. I had nothing prepared, no questions written down or anything. And so the interview didn't go really smooth.. But still, while Johan was constantly looking at his beer can and talking on a monotone level, he told me how everything was going great and that he was happy with his life. Like I said before I didn't prepare any questions, so you'll have to excuse me for the sometimes pretty lousy ones I came up with on the spot.

Well, here goes nothing! I was wondering, what did you think about the show?

I liked it; it was a funny time of the day for us to play. It was quite early; maybe they should make it a 2-day festival or something. We played here, could it been 3 or 4 years ago, I have good memories of this festival; to bad the weather is really shitty. Normally a festival is really good for us, the kids are really here to have fun and to see bands.

And you play really positive energised music..

We try to keep it that way, we're not really finger pointing political... we are still political, we still have the same believes but we sort of got tired of ourselves and our way of writing songs. It's always been that way, every time we release a new record we try to write in a different way.

Do you still believe in the Anarchist philosophy?

Yeah, we still have the same believes even though we write things that are not necessarily political in a global way, it's more personal. We can even write love songs, we feel free to do that.

I like the way that you write the songs. It's not just screaming out, but....

We are more interested in inspiring people to

gain knowledge by them rather than pushing it upon somebody.

In the beginning that was different?

Yeah, it was, we sort of, in the beginning we compared ourselves so much with a couple of American bands and that was the way we grew up. We had a sort of a standard way of writing songs/lyrics. That was all we knew.

How did you get into Punk rock?

I didn't get to join Randy until 1996, but I listen to punk rock through my brother. We are old friends; in the beginning I sold T-shirts on tour for Randy. And when they had a disagreement with their old bass-player, it was natural for me to join. I learned to play the bass, and I got a chance to play with them.

Where do you see Randy going from now? (Dumb question. I know..)

In the future? Uhhmm. The thing is, we never had a commercial agenda or something. We don't have a plan; we don't think it's absolutely necessary to succeed. If we can go on this stupid way of changing every record, and writing different songs all the time, and people will still like us, than I'll be happy. If they can take it for 10 more records. The fans are really nice to us, they're not very strict and they can expect all kinds of songs.

By Martin Weber

**FEATURE
HC ETHICS**

o one would argue that the hardcore scene has changed over the past 15 years, but the fact that it has evolved for better or for worse could be disputed. Four issues of Inside Knowledge could be devoted to what people think hardcore (or punk) is and how it has changed. In order to avoid incomprehensible, meandering philosophising. I have chosen several people around the world, who I respect, but furthermore who I think have contributed in one way or another to the scene in their own special way.

Every one of these people have approached it all from a different angle and built their band, site, label or fanzine in the best way they possibly could.

I have narrowed the whole subject of the so called HC ethics down to just a couple of key subjects that have my interest at the moment, like how DIY is DIY? Why do majors take an interest in our scene, and is that any good? And all in all, has there been a progression of the scene and has that progression been beneficial?

Are there any things when you refuse to play? Like cooperate sponsorship?

We don't have standards, but if there's a big Coca-Cola sign maybe we can ask them to put it down, if they won't, we'll see. Some small festivals might need sponsors, if it's for a good cause.. But off course we don't like to be connected as a band to certain companies. Not to any company actually. Because it has nothing to do with us as a band and as persons.

Besides Randy, what do you do in daily life?

We all work, cause we don't make any money from selling records. When we are not on tour I work in a studio where we record the Randy albums. Stefan is a construction worker, Frederik works in a theatre. And Johan drives a delivery van. It's pretty hard to keep a steady job. But I enjoy my life, especially with the studio, I'm really happy about it. I get to work with music, brilliant. We work mostly with punk rock.

What do you want to achieve with Randy?

— It's part egoistic, I want to express myself. I want to write songs and make records. And that part is fun, but of course as I said before, I still want to inspire people to buy weird records and weird books. It doesn't work that way all the time. People are always open-minded, as you want them to be. But I guess it's mostly egoistic. And personally I don't have a plan, I won't change the world but I hope I can live in a way that I live in line with my believes, and that way I might change maybe only my girlfriend or my mom and dad in a little weird way. But, yes, I'm happy with my life

Interview Randy by Bart



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RANDY



The first questions that came to mind were: *What makes hardcore and punk important to you as it is today? Do you think about slogans such as "back in the old days" or "in 88 or 77 they made the best hardcore / punk ever"?*

Well as you come to read through this feature the average age of hardcore kids in general is not that high. Still a lot of them were around in 1988 when, as some say, hardcore reached a specific peak, creatively and ideologically. As for the '77 punks... hmmm, yeah well I couldn't get to the really old geezers that are still a live and kicking today.

Like Kafren of the London based Household name Records says, and sums it up for most of the people interviewed for this feature. "Punk and Hardcore are important to me today as they

provide an alternative to the bullshit world of the mainstream music industry that seems to be trying to take over and monopolise all forms of cultural expression. It is also important to me as a political entity in that it expresses alternative viewpoints, via music, zines, gigs, and provides an alternative media. Also, it is important as a community of people that can support each other and personally, as somewhere where I have made many good friends.

Ian Glasper of Stampin' Ground and Blackfish Records discusses the impact the music and message have when the old bands

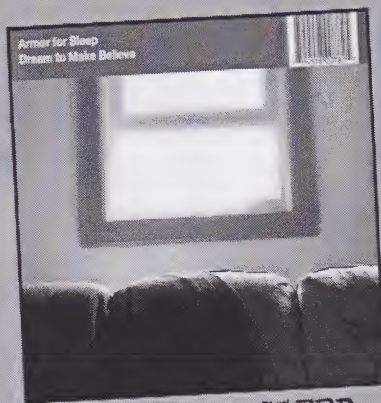
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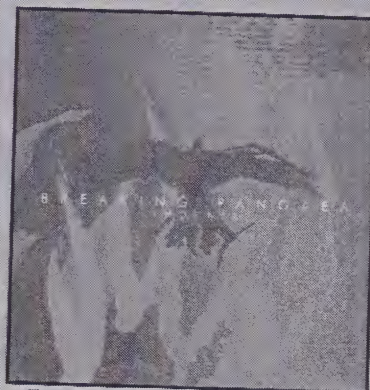
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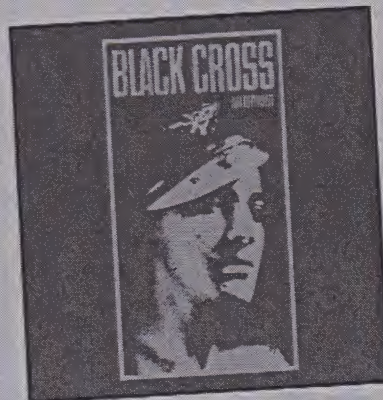
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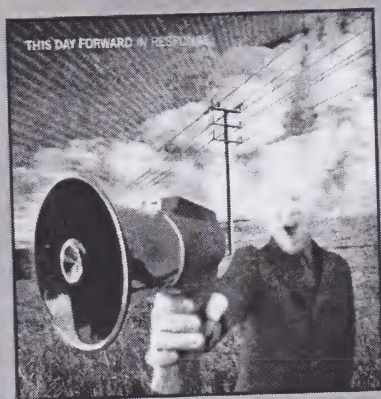
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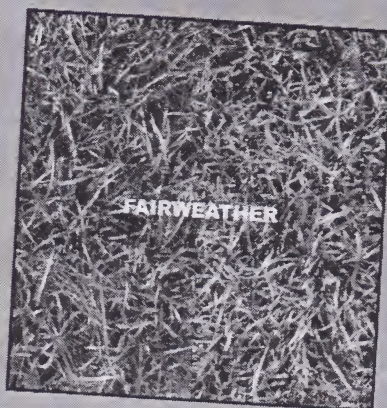
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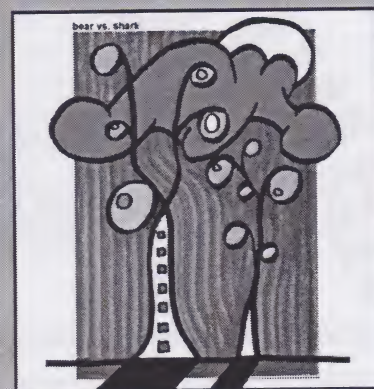
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"When Breath Escapes" by Sinai Beach has been yet another bullseye release by Californian label Facedown. Hard aggressive metalcore with some strange twists caught my attention. But there was more, although the band is firmly rooted in their Christian background, the lyrics seemed to be dark, without any hope. I got hold of Mike Risinger, who plays guitar in Sinai Beach, to answer this way of looking at the world and writing about it.

Can you at first tell about the name Sinai Beach? It sounds like something from the Bible on one hand, but also like some holiday resort on the other? No it's definitely not a holiday resort. It isn't named as such in the Bible either, but it is the area where Moses parted the red sea. There isn't any real meaning to it. It's original so we liked it.

Many of the lyrics on "When Breath Escapes" deal about the dark sides of man. How do you look to mankind? Especially the lyric "We act like dogs" from the song "Man or Animal?" caught my attention.

We believe God created man, and with man He gave us all free will. Man took free will and made chaos. Mankind has indulged itself in lies and hatred. Mankind has dug its own hole, and can't escape except through Gods grace. We see Mankind as a being that has fallen from grace, but is still loved, and therefore has a second chance.

In the answer to the previous questions you say, "Man took free will (as given by God) and made chaos". Won't humans ever be able to solve their own problems? What do you think stands in the way of that? We do know the difference between right and wrong, or does it all come down to the interpretation of just that?

Like we said before, humans lack self-control and we will never be able to solve our problems. Sure, we can solve problems with ourselves, but the world has problems that humans could never possibly solve. We do know the difference between right and wrong, but we all know that means nothing unless everybody is doing what's 'right' 100% of the time. And since everyone can't agree on what is 'right' or 'wrong,' there is chaos. World peace is impossible because humans as a race can't agree on the hundreds of spiritual, political, or social issues that are present today.

are compared to new ones: "as you get older, and more world-weary - not to mention cynical! - Things that 'blew you away' when you were 18 don't have quite the same effect anymore. But I still love the buzz when I hear a brand new kick-ass band for the first time, or when I see a truly awesome live show that's so intense it makes the hairs on my neck stand on end." So even though new bands might be appealing to Ian (he's 30-something), the impact of new bands on a teenager can be enormous.

The same goes for Mark 'Barney' Greenway of Napalm Death: "I was there in the late eighties, and I really liked the camaraderie; the fact that people were kind of united in tolerance and understanding. Even if not everyone was politically motivated, it was, like the old saying goes, a great 'network of friends' So I understand why people would use those phrases you mentioned. I was at that peak of musical appreciation in 1988 - being a music-hungry teenager and all that - but I just thought the impact of the sounds was so much more effective. Though I like a few off-



How do you see the world as it is today? I'd like to know if you think things are getting worse (political and sociological speaking)?

While the world seems to be getting worse, nothing has really changed. We do believe it is getting closer to the end, and with nuclear weapons, terrorism, and the ever-growing threat of wars, it doesn't seem to be getting better. There have always been social and political struggles and wars, but it is worse today because now, someone can push a button and nuke an entire country. We would say it's getting worse and we're definitely in the end times, but the world has always been bad so it's like, what area do you judge worse or better?

Even though several countries now have weapons of mass destruction, I was wondering what your thoughts were on the role of the media? If you take a look at the recent war in Iraq, they have had cameras on their tanks etc. To what extent does the media play a role in making people either scared or too much aware of what's going on? War on terrorism has been on TV 24/7, people will think more negative about the world surrounding them, as a couple of centuries ago, Europeans didn't even know about wars in Africa.

I definitely see the media distorting news. They can definitely scare people, but I see their role more towards calming people down. You may have noticed that there were some different stories between Iraqi news and American news. I'll use a specific incident. There was Iraqi news and publications at some point in the war that stated the Iraqis shot down an American plane. This would comfort the Iraqis loyal to Saddam. American media replied to this by stating what the Iraqi's said, and then rebuking it by calling it false. The truth is, whatever the media says, the public won't know what really happened. What the media says is usually over-biased. I know not to trust everything the media puts out, and that's ok because half of it is garbage anyway. People definitely see all the war on TV and can easily get depressed about this world and hate it more, but you're right, the media makes it worse and can scare people more. And like I said before the world has always had problems. The media puts it under a magnifying glass, adds, subtracts and calls it news. We all



need to remember that this world is chaotic and there are tons of things going on around us that we will never know, and we need to just question what we do see and ask ourselves and God what is important and what is not. I am glad the world has the media to give us visuals and/or updates on major events, but I would be happy and I'm sure all of us would be happy, if it was always right. I'm more mad about the people that watch the news all the time and let it form their opinions, and sometimes it will even run their lives. Anyone who sits in front of a TV screen watching the news 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is not expanding their mind, and for that matter, not learning about the world that is actually around them.

In the US as it is in Europe nations decided a long time ago to divide the influence of the church on governmental issue. I'm really curious about your thoughts on this.

Church doesn't belong in government, just like government doesn't belong in the Church. We are thankful for the fact that our government gives us the freedom to be Christians. Government and Church should never influence each other. One religion or

belief shouldn't run an entire country's laws, even if it is the one we feel is right. We weren't forced to have our beliefs, and we wouldn't want other people to be forced to live by the Church's laws, or the Church's influence on the government of that nation.

How do you set yourself aside from being sucked in to desire and greed?

We know we are weak, and we realize we aren't better than anyone else, but we accept the second chance God gives us. Everyday is a struggle, and we all have our struggles with desire and greed, but we all have a choice to say no to the self-destructive desires we sometimes encounter.

You also mention in one of the answers the struggle to keep out of the way of desire and greed. How do you see the development of people becoming drug free, vegetarian or trying to be aware of what they consume in general? Is that something where your beliefs touch the hardcore scene?

Our beliefs don't really touch the hardcore scene or being drug-free or vegetarian. These two ideas are part of the scene, but have no direct connection to desire and

By Martin Weber
FEATURE
EXCERPTS

shoots of the punk and hardcore sound, I've always preferred the more frenzied stuff (hence me being in Napalm Death), and I don't really like the stuff that has no substance and is purely a sound for the mainstream – it doesn't seem to possess a purpose, which is one thing I think that punk should always have. Maybe I'm a bit out of touch currently, but I simply don't see the same quality of scene today, so have to dream of the past. I know there are a lot of good bands and well-intentioned people/zines out there now, but where has the larger sense of community gone? Perhaps what helps it remain important today are those very memories of the past, and the fact that it helped to reinforce my views of the world and how vital music could really be."

Although Mark explains the impact the 80's scene had to him, he also sees the things that are missing in today's scene, an opinion he shares with Jeff Terranova of Smorgasbord records and the band Windfall. Jeff emphasises his ideas about the scene are an opinion, and puts it like this. "What was important to me was not just the music, but the message, the passion, the against the grain philosophy and attitude, and the hardcore brotherhood that existed between bands and fans. I think that that has now all disappeared and many of the bands of today try to rehash one of the past eras and bands. There is very little true originality anymore and I feel that the passion and sincerity is lost in the fashion and the goal to be on MTV."

greed. We meant desire and greed in the self-destructive sense (lust, gluttony, etc.). We definitely encourage drug-free living and if one chooses to be vegetarian that's fine too. Desire and greed torture the mind and soul; being drug-free and vegetarianism are health-conscious lifestyles.

Also "Humanity" deals about the wrong path you think science has taken. To what extent to you think science can benefit us? Where to you think is the limit to what we are allowed to do? I mean curiosity is one of the strongest drives people have, can you hold that under control?

We have nothing against the benefits science has given and will give people in the future. "Humanity" is directed towards evolution. People have made evolution into a religion. Science is based on facts; evolution is a theory, therefore not a fact. Man has made an answer that sounds good to him; he can't understand and solve the mystery of the universe, so he has created his own answers. Man generally hates to admit that God was, is, and always will be the master of the universe.

Getting back to the overall feeling of the album. Do you feel helpless? Are you disappointed about that what people do to each other?

No we don't feel helpless, we believe anything is forgivable. We are disappointed with the fact that the majority of this world murders, rapes, starves, tortures, ignores, hates, and casts its own people down. We aren't helpless because peace is found elsewhere, and we all (humanity) have access to it, we have peace in the fact that God is the only one who will always care for us and love us unconditionally.

I have also asked this question to Figure Four some time ago, but why do you think hardcore in particular is a good way to get in touch with the kids? Do you think there is a need to give the spiritual content of your music a modern touch?

We play this music because we love it. It is a reflection of us as people. We are just like the kids that listen to our music and heavy music in general, we are into it because we identify with it and it sounds so good. The spiritual content doesn't need to be modernized and we aren't trying to sell any kids

Christianity. We feel no need to modernize our message through metal.

How did you get in touch with heavy music in general? Did the people surrounding you support you, knowing that this kind of music is not really accepted within Christian communities?

None of us grew up as 'sheltered Christian kids.' Those of us in the band that were raised by Christian parents never kept us from listening to heavy music either. We got into it just like any other kid would. We heard bands like Metallica, Fear Factory, and Overcome and loved it. So naturally we would be inspired to go to shows, buy records, and eventually play it.

I've seen one of the guys in the band wearing a Slipknot shirt in the booklet. Do you like them musically and do you draw any influences from them? And what do you think of them using the devil as some sort of gimmick (knowing young kids might not see the difference between a gimmick and a serious message)?

Musically, Slipknot has been an inspiration and hasn't affected us in our beliefs. You can feel the intensity in their music, and in this sense they have been an inspiration. Slipknot uses the imagery to sell records. As for them using the devil as a gimmick, we don't agree but we're not going to do what kids that don't agree with us might do: not listen to our music because we're Christian. If the music someone listens to is going to

make him or her act or believe something they know is wrong for them, then obviously they shouldn't listen to it. This band always has been and always will be Christian and just like we shouldn't be condemned for what we want to do, neither should Slipknot.

And to close the interview off, what's the most positive aspect of human behaviour you see around you today? Where to you see the good in people shine through in their way of doing things?

I think the most positive thing we see in human behaviour is the need and desire to heal. We see it as the need for God in people's lives. In the individual sense, most people are tired of hurting themselves and each other. People want to care. There is hope for us and that hope relies solely and only on Jesus Christ. I know a lot of people don't believe in God and that's fine, but there is a reason a lot of people feel emptiness and no control. People need to ask themselves now what their direction in life is and they need to search for the answer or cure for their feeling of emptiness (this is a message for people that are feeling empty of course). People are lazy these days and want the answers to come to them and just change their life with any work on their part. Life is a lot like college, you have to learn, study and question and never give up to achieve the goal.

Interview by Martijn Welzen



This notion about the hardcore scene seems not only to be about that when you're a teenager you're experiencing the music more intensely, but as Edward from Goodlife Recordings puts it: "Punk has become less of a threat then it was. People usually see that as a bad thing, but the good thing about that is that you don't get in ten million fights every night, because that's exactly how it was before. Metal kids or disco kids hated you! You Really were a threat to them so it all was very physical." Tony of Victory records puts it down fairly simple; "It the music that is being made excites you, you should stay involved".

As for saying that everything was better 10, 15 or 20 years ago. Not all true according to some..."One of

the things that has improved the most is the professionalism of the bands and the organisation of shows." (Duncan of the now revived Dutch My Own Way e-zine). Johan of the Dutch Reflections Records seems to be hesitant about whether things have improved or not. "I think, due to the Internet especially, it's way easier to have access to music, to have access to bands and people doing labels etc.etc. The

charm of writing letters, having tons and tons of fanzines seem to slowly disappear... that's not that much of an improvement to my opinion, but like I said, things change and sometimes it's maybe better to go along, then firmly hold on to the past." Tim of the UK fanzine Mass Movement even states that nowadays



OPEN HAND

At the annual Groezrock in Meerhout Belgium festival we got the opportunity to talk to Jeff, bassplayer of Open Hand. After hearing their album *The Dream*, a marvelous production brought to you by Trustkill Records, we thought that it was time to take that opportunity..! We met Jeff after their show at Groezrock...

The band is called Open Hand. What is the story behind this name..? Does it also have a deeper meaning..? Would you prefer people to approach people with an open hand rather than with a clenched fist..?

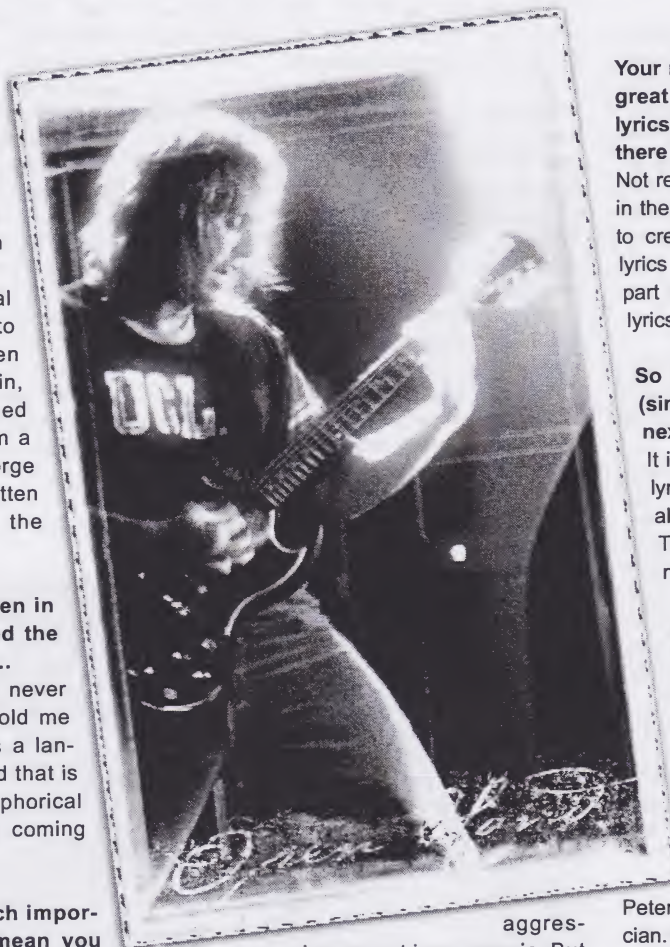
Well.. it is more a metaphorical name; Definitely it is better to approach people with an open hand. But it came from Justin, the current singer, when joined the band he got the idea from a book, called "1984" (by George Orwell ed.). That's a book written back in the sixties about the future.

Ehhh.. I thought it was written in 1948 and the writer switched the last two numbers into 1984...

Oh, yeah; to be honest, I've never read the book.. But Justin told me about it. In the book there is a language called "New-speak" and that is basically a kind of like metaphorical for the band. This language coming with Open Hand..

And is that positive approach important for you as a band; I mean you notice many bands are inspired by aggression..

We still have that aggression. Every one of us we pretty much brought up in the hardcore-scene, so we always have that



aggressive aspect in our music. But at the same time at a show there still can be a positive aspect too. You can support the aggression with positivism. But you can look this deep into our bandname, but it is basically from the book..

Your most recent album "The Dream" has great artwork, great package, but the lyrics are not included in the booklet. Is there a specific reason for that..?

Not really; there simply wasn't a lot of space in the way we did the lay-out, so we wanted to create a more visual thing. Though the lyrics are easily to understand for the most part on the cd. The next album will have lyrics on it.

So it is important to include them..? (since you've made the choice for the next album)

It is always important I guess to have the lyrics. We just made the choice for this album to not include them on this album. There is no particular reason why we didn't put the lyrics on this album.

In your biography you mention Peter Gabriel as a musical hero, maybe not personal, but..

(heavily interrupting) as a band: Metallica. Fuck yeah; Metallica and King Crimson and eeehh.. Sunny day real estate, Quicksand.

But where is this Peter Gabriel-thing coming from then..?

Peter Gabriel is by far Justin's favorite musician. And I like Peter Gabriel too.

How do you combine that with hardcore; I mean, it is a totally different thing..

I think you can hear some influences in the more subtle side of Open Hand. You probably

By Martin Weber
FEATURE
HXC ETHICS

music makes him feel the same way as it did when he was a teenager. That's as far as the music goes as for the other important aspects: "On the other hand, the whole spirit of camaraderie seems to have died out, and a lot of the time I'm left wondering why people especially a lot of the younger kids seem to want to constantly "out-do" each other, like it's some sort of competition and they have to constantly play some weird game of "one-up manship". I don't understand what happened to the notion of a scene and pulling together to help each out, it just seems to be fading away. The same kind of thing applies to the D.I.Y ethic that I embraced at a young age and still hold do (which probably encourages

mass movement

hear it a lot more on the next album.

Everything affiliated with Peter Gabriel is awesome. I mean you have so many great musicians that work with that guy. All around he is a great artist in performance, singing, songwriting..

Is that maybe what you want to learn from him; the aspect of combining those things..

Maybe it is not the performance aspect of it, because he puts up really theatrical shows when he plays live. We just like to bring it more natural. We do not put up tons of make-up and do not do that theatrical stuff.. Although we appreciate that.

Everything we do is from the hart. I like our whole stile. It is evolved from the bands we've all played in before Open Hand. Like Justin used to play in an old hardcore-band called New Speak, they were kind of Shai Hulud kind of music. So we all had that really aggressive side to us..

Are there other people outside the hardcore-scene who have been an influence to Open Hand, you've mentioned Peter Gabriel, Metallica..

Yeah. But those are more like our beginning influences. I started listening music with Metallica, Hendrix, those were the first which inspired me to pick up an instrument. That's why we always thank those types of bands, because those are the bands who made us start it.. But I can talk all day about Poison The Well, Give Up The Ghost, Stairland, all the bands we've played with today, we are on tour with.

And do those newer bands influence you now..?

Yeah, there are a couple. A lot of new bands come up with new ideas. I mean music constantly evolves.

Your latest cd has a very good, very detailed production, we heard live the same performance as on the cd.

The cd is a little eeehh.. I wouldn't say

"more polished", but it is a little more concentrated on songwriting live we are more about the visual entertainment and bringing it from our hearts. Not saying we don't pour our hearts out on the cd's. But the cd's are a litte bit more laid back. Live it is a lot more energetic.

OPEN HAND >>>

my naïve optimistic drive and belief that anything is possible), it just seems to be far less important to the way the scene is run, which has more to do with mainstream market share than underground culture. And don't even get me started on a lot of the pop bands trying to pass themselves off as punk bands, dumbing their ideas down to appeal to the lowest common denominator, throw your ideas away because it great to sing about tits and ass. What the hell happened to free thought and protest? I don't know, maybe I'm getting old..."

That's how the music impacted on these people in the past and what it still does (or does not) do to them today, but there's more... the message, the politics. Punk and hardcore started out as some sort

of "anti movement" where rather leftwing politics thrived. Over time things have changed gradually, nowadays people even talk about HC and politics clashing.

Crucial Pete says: " Punk is rebellion against the fucked up society. Then and now! Better get your ass on the street and protest against the WAR!".

Or as Barney ND puts it: "When people say that it shouldn't be at all political, I think they do it a great disservice. Taking two examples, when you look at people like Crass and the Dead Kennedys, not only did they expose certain elements of societal injustice that a certain percentage of the listeners possibly wouldn't be aware of, they also did a lot for the freedom of musical expression



OPEN HAND >>>

Some bands overproduce their cd's. They have a really good production, but they seem not thinking about how to perform their songs live. Do you take it in account when you write/record the songs, that you have to perform them live.?

All the musical side of it is exactly as on the cd. We don't overdub too much stuff, all the effects you hear, we use them live. We have some stuff recorded now for the new album, we do a lot of preproduction, there is a lot o overdub with vocals, we want to hear harmony and stuff. There are a lot of times we get too overworked on it than we have to take a step back, because we realize we are not able to pull this off live. We play a cou-

ple of new songs live, to see how the audience takes it; it is funny when a song doesn't sound great in the studio but is very well received by the audience. A lot of our songs are recorded in the studio.

And how far are you guys with the new album..?

We are just in the preproduction-phase. We are working on trying to get a producer. We hope to put it out around July. We suppose to get back here to Europe then together with Elliott, so we want to get it done by then. But when it comes out, that's up to Trustkill. Hopefully end of summer or so.

The songs on The Dream were previously released. Why have you chosen

The Dream to be your title track for the album..? You could also have u s e d Evolution's or..

Well, I never really thought about why we've used The Dream. The album consists of two EP's: Evolution's and Radio Days. We've added one more track and released on Trustkill.

How is song-writing done by Open Hand...?

Most of our

songwriting is done by Justin, he is kind of like the brains behind Open Hand. But recently we've been writing songs together, that didn't even happen before this line-up came with Shawn and me. It was mainly Alex and Justin that were doing most of the writing.

Today you are playing on a festival, last week I saw you guys in quite a small venue, how is it like the difference to prepare for a show..?

We are pretty used to play on small stages. There is a place in California we play all the time which is called "Jerry's Basement", that's about the smallest place we've played; the stage was as big as the drum riser overhere.. Give us the space; We use it..

What do you like more; When you play at such a festival; you're music reaches a bigger audience at the other hand; in small venues you have a lot more intimate atmosphere maybe "a higher rendement"..

I personally like floorshows. It feels like you're a part of the crowd and the crowd is part of the band.. it's pretty amazing.. No barriers like a stage or something..

You notice any differences the way people put up shows in the States and overhere..?

Not quite much when it comes to promotion or venues and stuff.. It is a bit less strict overhere. When there would be a festival like this; there would be a lot more security and stuff.

Thank you very much for the interview.

Interview/Pictures by:
Martijn Welzen and
Joost van Ingen



OPEN HAND

By Martijn Welzen
**FEATURE
EXCERPTS**

that some people who scoff at politics would do well to be thankful for. That element is still there, and I think fortunately it will never go away."

So maybe politics aren't as influential as they used to be but, they're still alive and kicking, like Kafren says. "I think it is sad that HC and politics aren't so linked as they were, though it really depends what part of HC you mean. It seems that over the years the HC scene has become more fragmented and more

and more divided into sub-genres. Some types of HC have become more and more political, while others aren't so overtly political."

Though not all agree hardcore and punk ever started out as a political movement or anything. "I think HC/punk started out as nothing but an anti-movement, and not being really political at all, except maybe against the 'politics' of the record-industry (then again, the Sex Pistols are THE best example of a smart



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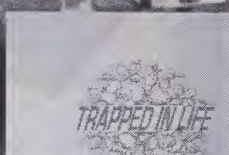
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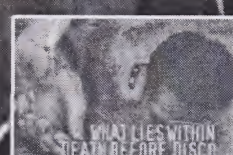
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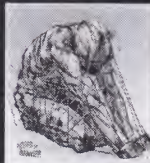
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Inside Knowledge #7

These are the last days... **RIGHT 4 LIFE** *Tour 2002*

"These are the last days" was the first real Euro tour for Right 4 Life. Line up was, and still is, Job-drums, Erwan-guitar, Alex-bass, Seb-guitar and I, Olivier-vocals. The tour started mid Nov 'till 23rd of Dec. Joost, from Inside Knowledge zine, booked one of our shows, so we had the chance to stay at Carel's house and to take time to talk about different topics. At the time Martijn thought it might be interesting to do a report of the tour, b/c two weeks were yet to be done and a lot already happened - funny or shitty things. I want to thanks him big time for his interest, but I now realized I should have refused his proposal! Writing about this whole tour with the very few English words I know seem "mission impossible"... anyway here we go...

First shows coincide with the Murphy's Law French tour. Nothing to say really, except M's Law is a great live band. We were playing France; a country where we got good response most of the times and that was no exception. Oh yes! First show was in Toulouse and one guitar player was on an Irish tour with his other band: To Learn, so we had to play with a different line up and that was pretty bad, nevertheless the other French shows were super great. Then Spain.... Hmmm all five shows got cancelled a few days before, then Italy... two shows and one of them cancelled, so we had no choice but to cancel the other, in Rome, too. Would have been crazy to drive down just for one show, especially when the next one was in Switzerland. So to sum it up, for us the tour really began with the Swiss show, and still three weeks of gigs are ahead.

SWITZERLAND -

Monday 2nd of Dec 02

Just one show, in Geneva, in a squat called "Villa Bandito". For those who don't know about the Swiss customs... the kind of guys not to fuck with!! The whole car searched, stayed there one hour and a half, paid about 150 euros taxes for the distro stuff I had ("eh man that's promo stuff only, not to be sold." - "Sure mister, no problem, tax is still the same") and 35 euros for 1 full year highway taxes ("eh man that's only for one day, we won't come back ever" - "Sure mister, no problem, tax is still the same"). Then we reached the place. Show was booked by the squat + Ivan from Hannibal Rcds. We first relaxed a bit in Prejudice's drummer flat, in the centre of Geneva, quite big and quite cheap to rent (??). Back to the squat we got great food, soup, dessert.... very good and 100% vegan. The place is huge (3 floors + basement) got TV, VCR, fridge, big tables, chair and beds, all the guys from the squat with cellular phones... Then we get to learn that nobody never bought nor stole anything... it was all out there in the streets, thrown away by such a rich population that they really don't seem to care about wasting money. The cell-phones, the TV, the video tape player, everything found in the streets. Even the food we ate was from some garbage around. Anyway we played a good show and got a good response. Also the squat was opened / ran by people exclusively from eastern countries, here in Switzerland! In fact it was made of three or four big houses like the one we stayed in, with electricity, warm water, all modern comfort and this for.... Yes you got it, for free.

marketing plan!), later on it started to get political and people within HC adapted it worldwide and it became definitely left-wing orientated"; says Johan Reflections. And for as far as the future goes? Johan continues; "I hope that HC maintains to be a scene where kids question things. If it's only about music, it wouldn't make us any different, then god-for-bid nu-metal and the likes..." The a-political start of the punk movement also returns in Ian Glaspers answer; "It's a shame that the scene is so apolitical. You're right - once upon a time, hardcore was all about making a change for the better... not necessarily politically, but at least within yourself as an individual... that's why I don't much like it when I see

some labels advertising bands as 'politically incorrect' - as though this is a GOOD thing!"

Edward Goodlife states: "Punk was never about left wing or right wing", but he also hopes that when it comes to political bands there are still some trying to make a difference in that aspect. "Right now there sure still are a ton of political bands... Catharsis, Antiflag, Boy sets Fire etc. etc are all very outspoken."

Duncan MOW takes the whole political angle of hardcore and punk to a more personal level. "I think hardcore and politics DO match, but I also think a lot of people are taking it way to serious. Especially on the internet/mes-

FRANCE

Tuesday the 3rd of Dec 02

One show in Besançon before leaving for Germany. Place is cool, a pub, we played again in the basement and about 120 people showed up, nice! Good show and again a party. I do get to bed quite early, I guess 1 or 2 am; while other drank and party 'till 6 am.

GERMANY

Wednesday 4th Dec 02

We woke up at 8 pm, 'cos it is a long drive till Mülheim. About ten hours, get lost two times ... we got no map (in fact we did the whole tour without maps... yes I know, I know...) We finally reach the AZ club very late and is was totally deserted. Show is booked by Norman ex-Indication and also from "Music is my girlfriend" emo band. We get the best food of the whole tour, all vegan and many dishes I never tasted before, really great. We drove the whole day and did not even stopped to eat anything, so it was more than appreciated. Next to this we even improved our attendance score. Past score we did was 24 people three years ago, this time 12 entrances, half of the visitors. Totally scaring for our fist show ever in Germany! OK, sound is good, good PA and one in all a cool place. Tears of blood, metalcore band, were playing their first show and we're next. I do hardly sing as I almost lost my voice but that was cool anyway. Few pretty girls were there but left after the first two or three songs...ahum! Also some people did not enter the room, as they came for the theatre in another part of the club, but they paid the entrance fee just to support us, isn't that great!! THANK you. Place we stay at is great!! Internet for free at anytime and huge bathroom, with hot water, bath, beds for everyone and a whole room just for us, really motel-like. We rest with Norman, and discuss a good part of the night. Next show is cancelled, so we hang out the whole day in Mülheim, got arrested by police who thought we were illegal immigrants, even got a sermon!! Wrote a few letters to family, friends, hang out in porno place (seems like some of us miss their girlfriend and that's only five days on the road...) then back again at the club we quickly fall asleep.

Friday 6th Dec 02

We play in Hannover, not too far, like 4 hours driving. Gig was supposed to be booked by some guy who finally could not handle it so another guy "pick up the baby". But the 100 promo posters I sent where there lying on a table. With better organisation I guess some more people would have showed up. This time we did about 60, pretty disappointed. We played a small room without PA except for the vocals and a good punk band, very Rancid like in my eyes, played before. We were really refreshed from the day off and the gig was full of energy. We play almost the whole set and one totally drunk little guy is really boring, tries to dance but ends up falling on everybody. Then a girl get upset and totally threw him away while punching him in the face like five times. This makes me feel sick to the stomach, really. This guy just deserves to be kicked out but not to be hurt, he honestly did not harm anyone and that's so easy to beat people when they are drunk. Personally, I now just want to play the last songs and stop the show... what we do. Then we're offered to go to a party again! (No we don't complain about this, ah, ah) Outside it's freezing, like far below zero, and all I got is a small jacket. We do walk for about 10 then 15 and finally 30 minutes. It's now pretty boring, plus I'm now really tired. Finally we reach the place and...party is over!! Again 1/2 hour walking with frozen hands, face and feet. We reach the club, where we stay at, and after nearly five seconds I fall asleep.

THE NETHERLANDS

Saturday 7th Dec 02

We wake up around 9 and... it's snowing, it's white all over!! We hardly see snow in Nantes so that's really great to us. But the car hasn't been equipped for this. We drive more than slowly, about 30 minutes to reach the highway... three km away!! We get to Veenendaal mid afternoon. The club is nice, the biggest venue of the tour. During the show, few kids threw lots of beer away, on people plus on the dance floor... btw not a dance floor anymore as dancing is now impossible. Anyway our show is good again and we meet some French friends, now living in A' dam, (wassup Katia / Bdave?) and some cool dudes from there too. Right after the show a drunk hits me very badly on the leg for unknown reasons. I 'm not the avenger type of guy, so no violence happened, but I was honestly about to betray my principles. Good side of things is that Carel / IK is a professional masseur... so to speak, no coincidence. We stay at Carel's and got some food, beers... so one of us is sick, as usual. We have a good night and next morning we come to meet the infamous Inside knowledge crew in full effect!! Got a good talk and get ready to leave, gosh it's already about 4 pm. The guys/girl are surprised we can get all our stuff in the car!! Next show was supposed to be in Luxembourg but got cancelled, so we drive all the way to France to slept in Burn Hollywood Burn singer's flat.

sageboards, a hell of a lot people react without even reading the arguments. To me it's not about politics, but about being critical towards yourself and others, thinking about your decisions and the path you choose."

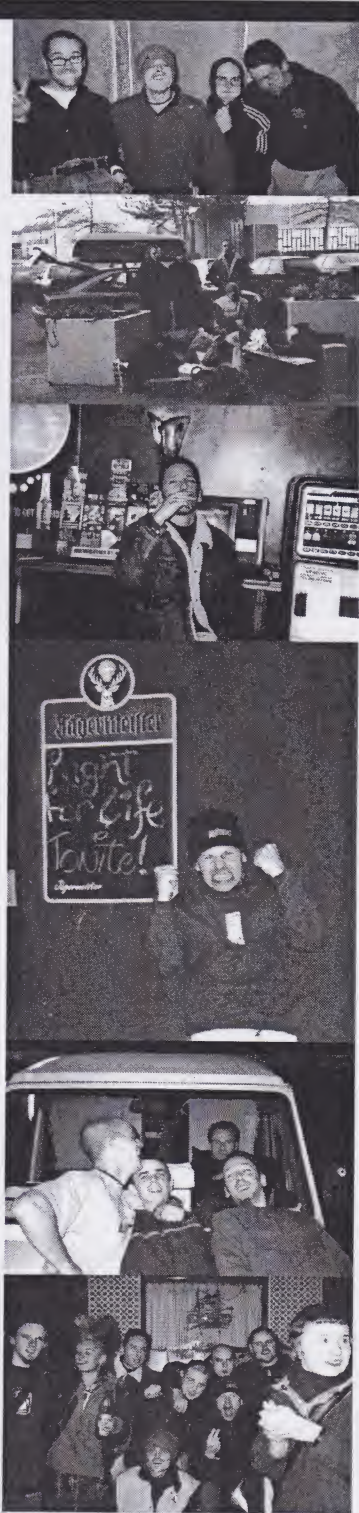
As far as politics go there still are a lot of bands that do have a message that they try to get it across, the fragmentation might have blurred this a bit. Tim of Mass Movement put it like: "To be honest I don't think that the scene has evolved as much as it has fragmented, splintering into different sets. Those who still care about the world, and are concerned with expressing their views on the way we can hopefully make a difference in the world, no matter how small (oddly enough, the grouping that seems to contain a lot of people

around the same age as myself) and those that are just there for the tunes, the beer and a few laughs, which in itself is fine, at least they're there."

And the evolution goes on, not only ideologically but also musically. The music has been influenced by styles like metal, hip hop, industrial, new wave and mainstream rock. So I asked everyone: "Do you think it has "polluted" hardcore or punk or enriched it?"

Crucial Pete's honest and straight-forward in his answer: "I'm pretty much careless about those styles mentioned. When I listen to hardcore I want aggression, energy and anger, so leave me alone."

Jeff approaches this topic with more caution, but still he's





FRANCE

Monday 9th Dec 02

After a good nights rest we're heading to Cherbourg to play a cool show, but I can still hardly walk due to the "aggression" 2 days ago. Some nice/young people booked the place; we got cool food and great place to stay at. We get up very late and then we hang out a bit to finally take the ferry boat in the evening, destination: Rosselaar-Ireland. The whole night consist of going up stairs, checking the sea, and then down stairs, checking the place we sleep at - namely on the floor, and so on... impossible get asleep. Sea is almost calm but it rocks anyway. Yet no one is sick.

IRELAND

Wednesday 11th Dec 02

The hardest part of the tour by far! We're supposed to play in Dublin and then Belfast. But the Dublin promoter decided to cancel 2 days before for unknown reason (heard like maybe she was afraid we were pro-life, that's hard to hear for us when we're the furthest from that!!! if people still doubt, I can tell you you're damn wrong!). So we play Cork instead. Check an Irish map: arrival at Rosselaar drive down to Cork instead of driving up to

Dublin to finally play the next day in Belfast is totally sick! Especially when Irish roads are total chaos with a maximum of 50 km of highway in the whole country!! We get to Cork around 8 pm. Small pub, no free drinks, no food. We just had a very poor night in the ferryboat and also are starving badly... so much that I get dizzy, no kidding. We asked for food but had to wait long time before the promoter stops to drink and finally decide to lead us to the right place. Reached that place and it's now five past nine... but the place close up at nine! And the guy knew that - in plus it was just a hundred meters from the pub. I'm about to get aggressive... We finally get some Chinese food, very expensive and not really tasty. The show is pretty nice the small crowd too, but we're dead. We asked to get to bed right away, but are told that the owner of the pub, who housed us, wants to party and refuses to give us the key to go to sleep! Can you believe this? We told them we have to go to Belfast the next day, which means we'll have to wake up at 7 am, but they do not give a fuck and gave us a date at a club in town at 2 am! The guy is tall, kind of drunk, and it's impossible to reason with him. We get at the date in time but then they decide to keep partying, buy whiskey bottles and bring their friends to the flat. They fucking shout and laugh 'till 5-6 am. We hardly slept 2 or 3 hours. Now we leave to Belfast and that's 10 hours driving. This, I won't forget... I began to realize these Irish people are bunch of alcoholics.

Thursday 12th 02

Get in Belfast like zombies, luckily the guys are cool. We get sofas to rest and then great food. On the other hand, the show is not one for the books. Few people show up (but this includes the wife of one of the guys from Ensign; cool surprise!), the PA is so fucked up; we have to play at super low volume in order to hear the voice. I think we did a good show but the sound did us no good. Anyway we get a strong night and woke up around 1 pm. we're already fucking late!

Friday 13th 02

We drive all the way down to Limerick, eight hours, and... gosh, it's Friday the 13th, are we going to get killed or raped? I think enough shit already happened... and that's right because it's the best gig of Ireland. We get cool food, played in a big and clean place. The stage looks like a cage, which is a bit weird, but the show rocks anyway. Then get a cool party and a short night. Big up to the AMC and Jane we booked the gig.

Saturday 14th 02

We're now back to Cork, where we played the first day instead of Dublin. We get there early, hang out and buy food by ourselves in some Indian place... Spicy, do you mean spicy?? The two dishes I ordered, I just can't eat them!! My mouth is on fire. For sure with such food you can kill all germs inside, but that's not my fav' medicine, a bit too extreme for me. We get back to the club; support act is Rest an amazing instrumental emo band. High quality music! But same as in Belfast the PA can't do the job and that's super frustrating, I do the whole gig with almost no voice... I'm pissed off. Good side is that we do sleep in house of French friends, so we get great food, do some washing, take a shower... very cool.

Sunday 15th 02

Last gig in Ireland, Galway. To be honest I can't wait to leave the UK. Maybe I should have been in better mood, because I can tell you we needed to be positive that day!! We reached the pub at five or six and they won't let us in! Even the band can't get in before eight,

By Martin Weber
**FEARLESS
HYPERETHICS**

not that keen on the influences, as he says: "I feel that it has polluted a lot more than it has enriched. A lot of things have polluted the underground hc/punk scene over the past decade, but introducing hip hop and dj's into hc music to me has been the worst."

Ian Glasper.... "In some cases, where it has been done with vision and integrity, it has definitely enriched it".

Most other people seem to share Ian's opinion more than Peter's or even Jeff's. Kafren explains: "I think that musical innovation is necessary in order for a scene to survive. If music doesn't change and evolve then it gets boring, and if it gets boring then people are less likely to get involved and eventually the scene will die out."



and that 's "doors time". So we're forced to park the car next to the pub. Can't park the car in a smaller alley since all the equipment is in it, and it would have been really unsafe, even parked here on a big avenue I don't feel 100% secure, but we got no choice. We do walk around to enjoy ourselves a bit. Back 2 hours later and the car is hold down by some kind of special padlock. Quite scary as we need to leave right after the show, and drive all night to catch the ferry, must not be late. So we finally call the company responsible for this and get charged of 80 euros... half of tonight band's money. We get in; get some sandwiches, small but good. Club is very dirty, our feet kept glued on the floor and there was no heating- remember we're mid December. Five bands on tonight, we wait, then wait again, finally around 0.30 am come our time. We plug in, get ready and start playing, the crowd is really into the music, as almost all the gigs since the beginning (that's the great side of things, else we 'd have gone crazy, ah, ah) after three or four songs, total blackout !?! It's one am and the club closes at that time. With no heating at all the club owner just had decided to blow the fuses! That's very rude and pretty bad for the equipment. We yell at him, but the guy seems to be ready to fight, super bad attitude. (Club is O'Malley's - refuse to play it, boycott this place) We finally play 10 minutes more. The local promoter told us that each time it's the same with this club. I come to realize that he knew that 1 am was the time limit and he did nothing to schedule things the right way. This time I can't really take it any more. I do get calm because in fact there's nothing to do about it and we (happily) leave the country.... Don't get me wrong, we get some good crowd and are thankful to the people that book shows for us, but some of the shit was way too much. UK's next...

These are the last days... **RIGHT 4 LIFE** Tour 2002*

UK

Monday 16th 02

We're supposed to play Peterborough then drive to London stay at friends house for one day off and play the Verge in London the next day, but I got an email and Peterborough promoter changed his plan and wants us to show up Tuesday the 17th. We can't drive down to sleep for free in London and then drive back up to Peterborough, it's too far. So we rent a motel. Fuck! It is too expensive!! Nothing to compare with France, rooms for one or two people are 70 euros, while here, in France, we can get three people for 23 euros in formula 1. Anyway we search for about two hours and finally find a place for us all for 80 euros. Still pretty expensive but we're the only people in and it feels a bit like home, we have a good time, can get a shave, take a shower, watch TV, ... simple things but sooo good.

Tuesday 17th 02

So we pay the motel and drive to Peterborough. Give a phone call to get some info we still needed... and that's a fake number. Guess what! There's no show!! We did pay a motel for nothing plus lose the fee of tonight, that's what we call being fucked up, don't we? Now, all the way down to London where we meet friends and rest in their house. In plus we're pretty bored not to play tonight. Eh! That's the main thing of the tour isn't it?

Wednesday 18th 02

I love the few I know about London, so I do walk down town the whole afternoon. We get to the club, nice place with cool sound system, get good food also. Tonight there are 5 bands at the Verge / Camden, we play last and a bit late so some people had to leave to get to bed and catch the last bus. The crowd is pretty much into the tough NJ / NY HC style ala Bull Doze, while we play "brutal yet a bit melodic straight forward hardcore". Anyway people seem to enjoy and that's cool. Not the most active crowd by far but ok. Except that some people in the crowd get close to a fight.... Ahh, why can't we ever live as one...

BELGIUM

Thursday 19th 02

Heading to Brussels, Belgium to play the famous DNA. One of us can't find his ID anymore, so the customs refused us at the ferryboat and we missed it. That's really bad but also so funny, we just can't go back home. Are we now UK citizens? Finally Seb found his ID under a seat (hum, hum..) We take the next boat and get a bit late at the dna-bxl.



Barney adds to that: "It all depends on the substance of the individual band, rather than whatever particular style is influencing it. To put it simply: 7 Seconds or Sum 41? Ask yourself who has soul out of these two bands. I'm not really opposed to any form of music, because in the end, all good music comes down to soul, passion and integrity rather than the validity of one style over another."

Independence and the DIY ethics also thrived in the 80's. What of this remains today, are these (they) still around?

Barney of Napalm Death: "Their importance cannot be overstated. We as Napalm Death have been through enough business bullshit to know that sometimes the only way to get things done and not get

fucked over on the whole is to do it yourself. There are many things I wish we hadn't let slip out of our hands and into the hands off some money-grabbing leech. But we've learned and we're making further steps in the right direction. At least we've never let anyone tell us what to do or say creatively and stylistically.

However, you have to also remember that there are a few petty fucking people involved in the DIY scene: those that point the finger and shout "sell-out" at people like us, when we've sold out to who exactly? These sort of people would do well to channel their criticisms at the real problem areas in this fucked-up world we live in, rather than people like us who try to move along in positive ways. Why not expend some of that energy on shouting down so-called Labour

There we meet my good friend Alain RPP who helps us out with the Belgium shows. Tonight we play alone we got no cabinet but some combo for guitars, the sound is almost okay and we're are very excited remembering past experiences... we do play more faster and maybe not as "good" as we are used too! I don't know how we come to this but a combo guitar fell down... and down again?!??? Seems to be broken. We play at least half of the set with one guitar. I don't know about the power of the music, but it must have been a let down I think. Anyway when we play Belgium, things never go our way. And that's years... For your info: the combo is still working.

Friday 20th 02

We play with Lawstreet 16 in Binche today, one hour driving only, cool. We got a date with Alain and are supposed to follow his car. It's 6 pm, already dark in December, and it's raining a lot, so from the car, we don't see

much outside. We wait for him a few minutes then his car overtakes us and we start following him. One minute then five minutes and the car stops and parks ?? We realize we were following the wrong fucking car. Really looks like Alain's and the driver was also shaved and tall, really funny. We finally asked the way to get to Binche before LS 16! The show is okay; we did our job I think. Then we get to bed, nothing really special.

THE NETHERLANDS

Saturday 21st 02

Back in Holland to play Roosendaal. Everybody told us it was near Maastricht. So we got there and, once again, felt stupid!!! Roosendaal is 2 hours and half north. We get in on time anyway; get food, another great show and a good crowd. We party a bit and get back to sleep that was another very good evening. We also meet two friends from the Veenendaal show, great to see them here again!

BELGIUM

Sunday 22nd 02

Simply the last gig! Once again our two Dutch friends drove all the way down to see us, that's very much appreciated, I can tell you. LS 16 were supposed to play but cancelled but I Reject and Downshot are there, as well as French friends. The club, Frontline in Gent, is cool, pretty small with good PA. I feel we played a regular-good show but the floor slides too much to dance and really few people showed up. This time we can't wait to get back to our homes & comfort... that's the only thing we got in mind. Just one last good bye to our friends and we're on our way...

To conclude, Right 4 Life want to give HUGE thanks to people that book shows, came to the gigs and gave us support in anyway. No matter the good or the bad, it was a real adventure And that's what we're always looking for... see you all next time, hopefully.



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Prime minister Blair and giving him hell for supporting a crazy old imperialist like George Bush?"

So doing it yourself gives you freedom and peace of mind. Although many say TRUE DIY doesn't exist Ian Glasper comes close to a good definition of it. "We are all a part of the system, whether we like it or not - the best we can do is try to not to let it swallow up our own identity and try to maintain as much integrity as we possibly can. Strive to live by your own rules as much as you can, and only compromise as much as YOU feel comfortable with."

And As Jeff Terranova says, people think DIY means you have to do everything yourself, which is, accord-

ing to Jeff not what it is about. Or as he puts it: "DIY does not mean that you cannot have a good looking or good sounding product. People misconstrue the true meaning of the DIY philosophy all of the time and it's pretty frustrating. If you run your own magazine, do all of the reviews, the interviews, contact labels for ad support, and do the layout, but you pay someone to print it or photocopy it, you are still DIY. Same thing goes for record labels, bands, radio shows, or anyone who does something on their own to support the scene. We all don't own web servers, pressing plants, print or photocopy businesses, screen presses for t-shirts, etc. You need to have someone else do those things for you, that's just common sense.



Finally I decided to do a face to face interview.

Poison the Well was going to tour Europe and there were a lot of things I wanted to ask them. Because I know some of my friends are also very much into Poison The Well I asked Tim Habraken and Daan Mol to help me with this interview. Thanks a lot guys! We had the conversation with Derek [D] and Ryan [R] before their show at the Groezrock fest in Belgium. OK, just check out what these guys had to say.

First of all, how are you guys doing? How is the tour until now?

[D] It has been amazing. We're really tired because we've been working for so long without any break. So we're really exhausted but it's amazing. The shows are good and everyone's just cool. We're having a good time.

I remembered that you came here about two years ago at the Goodlife fest. Why did you only do two shows at that time because people all over Europe wanted to see you guys live on stage?

[D] We had already booked the Crazy Fest in America. We already agreed to play that before we agreed to come to Europe so when they wanted us to come we were like sure, but we can only come for that week and then we have to go back. We ended up playing just the two shows and that was it. We just kind of came over, played and left.

Did you like those shows? What were your expectations of coming over to Europe?

[D] You always think that it's really different but it's not. It's really kind of similar to the

States in some ways. In small ways, the little things are slightly different. We really didn't have any expectations, we were just excited to play.

But you didn't hear any stories about other bands touring Europe?

[D] They said it was fun. They didn't like the food that much, it's just a little bit different. We've just got different diets in the States but everyone always recommends to go over to Europe because it's a lot of fun.



Or as Tony Victory bluntly puts it: "How many people own pressing plants? How many people that do zines when down to the forest with an axe and chopped down the tree and processed the wood into paper? If you are analyzing things to this degree you should teach existentialism at the local university."

And as we can read hardcore has changed, whether it is for the good or the bad is an individual decision, but the average age of the HC "kid" doesn't seem to "have" changed and remains "constant at" 21, as it has been for the last 15 years. Do people leave the scene when

they get older? Are they maybe less visible? What will happen to the expertise these old geezers have, will that disappear? Can hardcore ever break the cyclic nature of things?

Johan Reflections is quite positive "as far as" stepping "up" to the next level is concerned. "I see more and more kids taking HC, as a lifestyle to a next level and simply live it for the rest of their lives in whatever they do. So, yeah, I think right now, kids are breaking that cycle!"

Ian Glasper on the other hand doesn't see the need to break the cyclic nature of things, even he is thinking that it's a positive thing: "I think by its very nature hardcore and punk music mainly appeals to teenagers, who embrace defiant music as they try and

A lot of kids are influenced a lot by your old records. What do you think about it? Are you proud of the fact that a lot of bands used Poison the Well as an inspiration?

[D] That's kind of flattering. I've never heard anyone ripping us off or anything. If it's a legitimate influence then that's a big compliment. It's pretty amazing. You never think you're going to do something like that. It's just cool that people like our records.

And in the beginning, what were your influences?

[D] In the very beginning when I was at High School I was listening to hardcore bands like Cave In and Converge. And I liked the Deftones a lot and stuff like that.

How did in the beginning Poison the Well evolve out of An Acre Lost?

[D] That was with member changes and stuff. A lot of different people where in and out the band. Everyone was really young and it wasn't a big deal. Ryan and Chris who were in An Acre Lost were also in Poison the Well. We don't play any songs any more from An Acre Lost. We only play the Opposite of December, Tear From The Red and the new songs. Ryan wrote the old songs and Jeffrey didn't sing on them so that's why we started only playing songs from the Opposite and so on because that's the band that we have now for 4.5 years.

You were very young when you started the band. How did it influence you as a person because from when you were young you played a lot of shows all the time? How did it shape you as a person?

[D] It has made me an extremely happy person because playing music is the only thing that I care about. That's what I do every single day of my life, it IS my life. There is no daily life for all of us because we do this all year. We've breaks but it's only a few weeks at most but normally it's just a couple of days and then I spend time with friends and people I never get to see.

Do you ever think about what you should be doing if you didn't have Poison the Well?

[D] Poison the Well specifically, then I would just be in another band. I wouldn't do anything besides music. If you're big, small,

broke or rich, I don't give a fuck. I love playing music and I wouldn't do anything else. It's just a waste of your life. If you're not doing what you want then you're wasting your life. I chose to do what I like to do and some people are not in the position to do that. Everyone starts off in a position not to do that. You make it happen, you do what you've to do. You work, get lucky or whatever it is.

Was it a big deal for your parents?

[D] Yeah. First they weren't into the idea. In the very beginning they were like this is just some silly high school band and I didn't think anything of it either. We were in high school and played in the weekends and summers

So it's your intention to live all your life playing music?

[D] If I still feel the same way about it and still want to play and not want to do anything else then that's what I'll do. If it ever changes then that will also change. Maybe it will change someday but now I'm having a lot of fun.

In Holland we get a strange idea and image of what America is. Last week I saw a movie called Bowling for Columbine. I wanted to ask you what you can tell me about violence in American society, among your friends or during shows?

[D] It's a fucked up situation, it's hard to explain. Because no one really knows why



and winters. And then we realized this is it. Playing music is what we love to do and it just became obvious. And it was the same with my parents, they were like if this is what makes you happy and you're completely happy doing it then there's nothing else we want you to do. They don't give a fuck about me going to school and get a job. They don't care as long as I'm happy about it. They're really amazing.

there's so much violence in America and specifically with guns. It doesn't make sense. You can cut it up and blame it on different things but there are too many things contributing to it. There's no way to pinpoint like here it is, fix it. I don't know what is it. The violence on shows is unfortunate. I think it's fine when kids want to dance and stuff but when they're starting fights it ruins the show.

By Martin Weizen
**FEATURE
FXC ETHICS**

find themselves through personal revolution - the traditional rebelling against parents and authorities that most of us go through... then it remains to be seen how many REALLY stick with the music and live by its ideals... and part of growing up is making - and learning by - your mistakes... it IS cyclic, for sure - and it has to be! More or less the same has been said by Jeff Terranova: "To remain truly underground, the cycle will need to continue. Hc/punk music is loud, fast, aggressive, abrasive, obnoxious, lewd, and underground. Once you break the cycle by sounding nu metal, emo, or pop punk, you now move into the mainstream, leaving the underground behind. So what I am getting at is, to remain

underground and true to the grassroots, DIY, "Don't Forget The Struggle, Don't Forget The Streets", keep big business out of hardcore philosophies, you cannot deviate much from the cycle."

So the cycle needs to remain intact and even maturing might not be the way HC should evolve. Napalm Death' Barney says: "Does it need to mature? I would say that is placing limits and boundaries on a musical form that is supposed to be without limits and boundaries. Traditionally, both the older and the younger people involved in the scene provide a good mix of experience, enthusiasm and raw desire."

Are there among kids any movements against violence or is it so common that you don't even think about it.

[D] It's not everywhere. I've never seen fights, no one that I know has a fucking gun.

It's the image we get about America by the media.

[D] The media is run by corporations and they invest an interest which lay in filling their pockets with money. They don't show you stuff so you can be intelligent and smart. They show you shit to manipulate you. So you watch television, so you read things not because the content of the program but so you can see the ad after the program. The media is fucked, I hate the fucking media.

When I saw the movie Bowling for Columbine I thought to see the other side of the media.

[D] Michael Moore [brain behind the movie] is completely fucking biased. He has got great ideas and at least he raises awareness but it's fucking biased. He's giving you one side of the story. It's like hey, see my side and then he raises all of these questions. Why this? Why that? But he offers no solutions besides gun control. It's not just that. I've a problem with people who raises their hand and squeal about shit and have no idea about how to fix it. It's important to be aware and to try but some of these people don't even try and can't offer solutions at all.

Is there any roll in Poison the Well about topics like this?

[D] No, definitely not. The lyrics are personal issues and it doesn't deal with anything political. We don't intentional say that we can not have political songs but our lyrics are just not political. Jeffrey writes and that's that. It's like why are you not a political band? It's because Jeffrey doesn't write political lyrics. It's very simple. He just sits down and he writes.

I always say personal things are also political.

[D] Yeah, it's politics on a very small scale. The way you live your life that's politics. Politics doesn't have to be the fucking government.

When I read the lyrics I imagine it's about girlfriends and breaking up. Are there any other stories?

[D] Yeah actually. You've to ask Jeff because I don't write them. I don't know anything about it. He was at that time, just like us, a sixteen-year-old kid. We wrote Opposite of December and Tear from the Red when we were sixteen, seventeen, eighteen year old kids with girlfriends. And writing about breaking up with your girlfriend is what you do when you're sixteen years old.

I was just wondering, maybe one day he gets over it and writes about other stuff.

[D] Yeah, of course. He has already on the lyrics of the new record. You haven't heard it but actually it's right here, we will listen to some of it later.

One basic question. Why did you call your band Poison the Well?

[D] It's just a name. There's no big reason or something.

... now Ryan comes in and talks about filming the show, which leads to our next question ...

I heard you guys talking about filming the show. When we were in Arnhem we were not allowed to film. Why is that?

[D] We are playing a bunch of new songs. People film the shows and put them on the internet. People pay outrageous amounts of money for the new songs. After, when the record is out, it won't be an issue. It's only for this tour. It's just because people exploit our band all the time on ebay. It's specifically for that. It's just for this month because it happened before. Before Tear from the Red people bootlegged the music and then there's this horrible different version of the songs which is so upsetting to hear. So this is a way to try to stop this. We don't give a fuck about

filming. We're not like fucking Metallica ...
... now Ryan comes in to join us with some French fries and takes a part in this conversation ...

Another question about the things I see about America. Now your president is killing in Iraq in the name of God I want to know how big Christianity is in America because when I see those images I believe it's still the main big issue and everyone is killing in the name of God.

[D] It depends on where you go in America. If you go to the Bible-bell, a part of America where people are very religious, there are a lot of religious fanatics. I'm not religious and none of my friends are so I think it's just a stereotype.

Where do you come from?

[D] Florida.

Are you guys from a big city?

[D] I'm from a small city called Jupiter. They're from Miami and stuff.

Because there must be a difference between small cities and big cities in relation to Christianity or other believes.

[D] Of course. In places like New York City or Los Angeles

people are wrapped up in just the hype and glamour of being in these places or any bigger city and then you get to these small towns where there's not much going on. People generally there have more faith in their religion.

Do you get some images of Europe when you live in America? Because here it's all focused on America.

[D] The whole world is focussed on America. I just think it's funny that this kind of shit happens all the fucking time. Our presidents have been doing what's happening now for a very long time but it's public now. At least since the

Tim of Mass Movement muses about the loss of expertise: "I don't think so. The people who seem to be the most active in the scene, even when they're young, are the ones who have it in their blood. They become lifers, stuck in the scene for eternity and are also willing to pass on what they've learned to anyone who might be interested. The only thing that might contribute to loosing the experience is the malaise and apathy that seems to grow with each new generation of punk rockers..."

What direction do you reckon the scene has to take to make sure it stays a breeding ground for new bands, zines, labels etc? Do you think the majors sniffing around in the underground, and buying out bands of even entire labels is a good thing? These questions seem to almost

form a unity with all people that have answered. Every single one of them totally disapproves of majors buying themselves into the underground.

Tony Victory: "The majors and their behaviour are a reflection of their own A&R deficiencies. Just because a band sold 1000 copies on an indie does not mean a major will sell 20000 copies. Bigger does not always mean better, and it definitely does not mean more efficient."

"Majors buying up independent labels is a bad thing - they're only interested in one thing: money, and they constantly search for the next big thing" says Ian, and he continues, "hardcore is far too small a genre for bands to sign to majors and shift enough units to keep the accountants happy."

Householdname's Kafren digs a bit deeper into the subject and states: "I think

American Revolution. It's the same shit that has been happening for a very long time. Our government going into countries and just whipping people out and no one ever hears about it and no one ever knows. I don't fucking buy it because it's like George Bush is doing the same shit all our presidents has been doing. It's fucking ridiculous.

Because they aren't finished in Iraq and they're already talking about Syria.

[D] It's just a fucked situation. It's so sad that all these people are going to die. All those innocent people. It's such a horrible situation. It's a mess. There're so many things that we don't know, there are so many things happening. The important parts are that no one innocent deserves to die obviously. But that's what is happening so it's fucked.

And how is it in America. Is there a big difference between who are pro and people who are against?

[D] There's massive anti war sentiments across America. It's like everywhere else.

[R] There are also massive pro war sentiments.

[D] Of course, there's definitely a split. And the people who are against it are very against it and the people are for it are very for it. And sometimes for very simple reasons such as, I know some people who are like once we declared war they were against it but once war was declared they backed it. Get in there, do whatever the fuck you have to do and get out as soon as possible so fewer people die. I know a lot of people that are like that. Get it and leave and sweep it under the carpet. That's basically what a lot of people want to do.

[R] The quicker we get this done, the quicker we can cover up the bad parts.

Now the war is almost over there's going to be another problem who's going to lead the county of Iraq. America tries to interfere as much as possible to gain more power for their own benefits of course.

[D] Of course. It's definitely not a humanist thing. People obviously bring up oil. There are more reasons than one but it's mainly about money.

[R] It's not just oil. It's good old green money.

[D] It's all about twisting and manipulating and, what you said, about going power. It's sick.



If they were that kind and that humanistic they would also try to "help" in parts in Africa where are suppression and wars going on for years but there's nothing to gain.

[D] There's nothing to gain in Africa so why would we do? Is helping Africa is going to make us money? No. Ok, so we won't do it. It's very sick.

Ok, another subject. How did your collaboration with the Plea For Peace tour came up? What's the main thought about the whole tour?

[R] Most important part of the tour, besides the music, was that you fell out this petition to send to the congressmen of the state you live in to help to get federal funding for suicide prevention. For the national help line. The basic point of the tour was to raise awareness and it's an issue that's close to everybody. I'm sure that everyone sometimes felt depressed and felt like killing themselves or know somebody that has. And that's the base of all politics. I care about you because you're a human too. It's cool, there's no bullshit about it. It's just goodness, just compassion.

And in what way is the Plea For Peace tour helping the organization to get money?

[R] There's no money in the Plea For Peace tour. It's just to help to fill in the petitions. We raised some money but the biggest thing was to get those petitions filled in. We're not the Rolling Stones. They can put up a benefit concert and make a real national difference. They can make enough money. Us going around the country for a month with some of the bands that we're friends with, that's not going to do enough to make a national difference. The whole point of the tour was if we've got enough petitions filled in than there were billions that were gonna be diverted to help the situation. There's no way that any of us, no matter how hard we work, would lead to billions to the cause. The real point of the tour were the petitions. A lot of people were like "I know, I'll sign the petition later " but it's really important. One petition can be the difference between a billion dollars helping out or millions dollars helping out.

By Martin Weber
FEATURE
EXCERPTS

the scene needs to stay independent in order to survive. To me, majors buying up underground bands and labels is two things – firstly a sign that the scene has been successful (as if it wasn't these parasites wouldn't be interested in what the underground is doing) – and secondly I think it's extremely destructive. Bands and labels need to stick to their principles and reject this attempt of majors to buy up the scene in order for it to survive. I firmly believe that the majors buying up bands is destructive to the scene and in the long term will lead to these bands being made broke and breaking up, except for maybe one or two bands who will get "lucky". Tim sees a reason for majors acting the way they do: "To be honest, I don't really see that there's a need for major labels anymore. Independents have proved that they can be successful on their own terms, without having to rely on the corporate bull-boy tactics of the

majors, and that scares the previously mentioned majors. Why? Because they know that they're obsolete, and they're just hanging in there. Dinosaurs clinging to the last little bit of life they've got looking for some sort of rescue. That's why they're desperately trying to buy up as much as they can – because they're threatened, and in their pea-sized business brains they're thinking "if we own it, it can't hurt us". I guess they'll only learn when they keel over and die, and that'll be far too late. So sad, too bad, bye-bye."

Johan Reflections also sees a brighter side to this all. "The fact THAT majors are sniffing around proves that HC really means something. I also don't believe the 'entire' scene could be bought and sold by majors / marketing plans. Even if they wanted to." And Peter of Crucial Response sums it up like this. "They can buy the music, but not the soul."

POISON THE WELL

You also toured with Kittie? How did you experience that tour?

[R] I had a lot of fun. It was cool to play shows. We were sitting at home and thought like, hell yeah let's go on tour. It was fun to hang out with Killswitch Engage and Shadows Fall.

Any strange stories about tours that people want to read in our magazine?

[R] Oh yeah! Speaking of the whole terrorist thing, which we started on earlier as I walked in. One time we were driving and this police officer pulled behind us and followed us for like five miles and we told the guy who was driving just pull off if he's going to pull us over at least we won't be on the highway. So he pulls off and then police-officers comes from every direction. Two from the sides, one from the front and two more from the back. They all surrounded the car and they grab me and they pulled me out. They put me over by the car and put my hands on the hood. And they were talking to these guys in the meantime. I didn't know what they were saying. These dudes asking me how long I was been with them and I was like for the last five years man, they're my best friends. He was like all right and he was looking at my passport and he was like sit tight. I was like "Oh my God what's happening".

[D] The guy comes over to the van and he's like that guy Ryan was positively identified as someone on America's Most Wanted. Apparently someone saw us driving and saw Ryan and thought he was a terrorist. The policemen were real cool and said sorry.

[R] I just never thought it would possible for me to be positively identified as an international terrorist.

[D] Those kind of things always happen to him. It was just so funny. Here's another one what happened to our old bass player when we were in Belgium at the beach. A cop on a motorcycle rolls up and out of twenty people he points right at him and say "give me your passport". And he was like "man, what's wrong?"

[R] But the other one was the funniest tour story I ever experienced. We laughed for a long time about that one.

About the new album which is coming out. After the Opposite album you didn't copy your sound on a new album but you threw in some new elements without losing the Poison the Well sound. Is it the same on the new album?

[D] Instead of sitting here and talking about it I'll just play it.

[R] It's again a huge leap. We don't see the point in making the same thing twice. We challenge ourselves every time.

Right now two great songs are blasting out of the speakers of the tour van. Everyone who saw them live knows what we're talking about. When you read this the album is probably already released so you know the deal...

You worked with two producers who did the recordings of Refused's "the Shape of Punk to come". Did they also have any influences on the songs itself with adding some ideas?

[D] They challenge you to be a better band. The whole thing is getting the best performance out of you and really pushing you to be a better band.

[R] We played a song for five or six times and recorded it all the time and they sat there and told that's not good about this one because you go off the beat or this one is no good because you speed up and slow down too much. They try to get you to play to your full potential and that's awesome.

And did they produce the whole album because I read somewhere that you recorded it in two times?

[D] Both with them. We did most of the drums, bass and guitars in Los Angeles and then flew to Sweden to their studio and finished vocals, mastering, mixing and some overdubs.

Are you also going to shoot a video of a song of the new album, just like you've done with Botchla from Tear from the Red?

[D] No, not now. We don't know if we're going to do the single thing.

... Ryan leaves the van because he is going to shoot a video of the Give up The Ghost show so he had to go ...

And the old video? Did you ask somebody to do it or is the video purely based on your own ideas?

[R] It was Darren who did it. It's an amazing guy and a good friend. We just told him we're gonna set up in a circle the way that we practice and he would film us, nothing else. That's what he did and that's all you see. A real simple video. We didn't have much of money and we kind of did it for fun.

And when you would have a lot of money to invest in a video? Any ideas to make a video when you had a large amount of money for the video?

I have ideas, I'm not going to say them. But I have some cool ideas. Videos can be fun. Besides as a promotional tool they can be artistic and express something. Just like the artwork on a record.

And with this artwork you did switched to the guy who did the artwork of Opposite? We're doing it with Jake or Don Clark who did Tear, one or the other. We're kind of in the middle of it right now.

About the title. Can you explain the title 'You come before you'?

For me it's not a "fuck you" in a rude way but a "fuck you" like you got to do what you want to do. For me the translation is you, yourself comes before you. It could be anybody. Like the labels, the potential audiences, fuck them, but at the same time, staying true to the older fans, fuck them too, fuck everybody because they all turn on you at some point. Like old fans that call you a sell out when you did nothing to sell out. We would never compromise the integrity of our music for anything. That's what selling out is. We don't write music to sell records. We write records because we like to write them and you can hear that this is the most pissed of record we ever made. After Tear from the Red we got bigger and people were mad of us. We were

So no one agrees with how labels work, but what happens when an independent label continues to grow and grow, don't things start to look alike? How can you prevent becoming like a major, but get big nevertheless?

Ian Glasper takes a first shot at this one: "I would like to think that independents would always support the artist first and foremost, especially creatively, whilst a major might try to shape the artist into something that they think will sell more copies... but some independents are so big, they're virtually majors anyway, and they act accordingly. Having said that, I think Epitaph are probably the biggest indie label in the world, and they have a very good track record of low

prices and artist support, and everyone I speak to says they are a label of integrity and honesty."

Epitaph and also Fat Wreck Chords get a lot of praise. Kafren says: "I think that it is possible for large independent labels to remain inde-

pendent and not function on the same motivations and in the same way as majors. Major labels are multinational corporations that at the end of the day are only interested in their profit margins."

REFLECTIONS
WORDS & MUSIC

so pissed off and we're like fuck you. The title of the record for me, it's different for all of us, is kind of directed in the music how angry we were at the situation.

The new songs also remind me a little of Refused, they rock more than the old stuff. It's more punk in general. It just goes and goes and pushes real hard.

You've played for years on great shows. Have you got still any wishes to play?

No, we just want to make records that are hopefully decent. Not records that were just a time of your life but a record you might be able to listen to ten years from now and still enjoy it. You didn't just like it when you were an angry youth but you like it because it meant something to you. We just want to make good records.

Do you still love the previous records you made?

I don't. I really appreciate them of course because we made them. It's tough. We played the songs so many times. I get a lot of the fact that people still care about them. I don't really think that it's that much quality. Everyone is always their own worst critic. I'm not saying that it's bad stuff. It's just that you move on. I think that this record is far away the most complete and best record we've ever written. It is more intense in every fucking way. It destroys everything we've ever done. We're very confident that this one is the best one. Not that it's good but for what we've done so far it's the best. We still see problems. Now we're done with this I want to go forward again. We did it, we took a big fucking step with this record and now we're just up the bar for us again.

Is there some big reason for you to make music besides the love for the music? I'm a singer [Daan, vocalist of Fetch and Isle of Man], I write about things that influence me and what pisses me of.

I had the best childhood on earth. My parents love me and they aren't divorced or anything, nothing bad has ever happened to me. No one who is super close to me died tragically or

anything. I'm just obsessed with records. For some reason listening to music is the only thing I need to be happy. I don't have a girlfriend. I have best friends, I love them to death but I never see them. Just listening to music for some reason, I don't know what it is about it, makes me the happiest person ever. I just hope to maybe give a little bit back myself and try writing songs.

To try to give the people the same feeling that you have with records of other bands?

Yeah, that's the whole fucking thing to try to match. And you always feel like a failure. You're writing and you're like this ain't shit compared to the stuff that I really love. When I listen to Radiohead or the Smiths I think "God, we're pathetic". These bands really knew how to express themselves and we're just fucking stumbling around and screaming our heads off trying so hard.

You should ask them.

Yeah, they probably think the same thing. Whenever bands get kind of content that's always when they start sucking anyway. When genius bands realize they're genius it's gone.

When you would have a perfect album than you would have nothing to strive for anymore in the future.

Exactly. That's why it's never perfect, there's always something. I've always felt like I personally am doing a good job in destroying that myth of the tortured artist. You don't need to be through all these trials and tribulations. All you need is passion. It doesn't have to come from anywhere, it's just something that you have. And I think that we've got that. That's why we're a band. I'm just excited to put this record out and start to play new songs. I think it's going to surprise people. I think people are expecting like Incubus and it's going to be like... what the fuck? I hope so. We love to surprise people, it's one of our favorite things.

OK, we think that's a nice ending. When is the release date? What's going to happen? July the first and we'll just be on tour all the time.

What do you miss the most when you're on tour?

Food. No, I'm just kidding. I miss my best friends. They're not even home when I'm home. I always miss my family. I've a couple of close friends since I was a little kid and they're really important to me. I never see them and miss them a lot. But sometimes I miss the food more. I like to eat.

And what drives you to write the personal messages on your homepage?

I like to be able to go to sites of bands that I like and see what they're saying directly from them and not through a fucking newsletter from their label. Someone from the band sat down and just cared enough to tell what's going on. You don't need the middleman.

I read you visited a Coldplay show.

Yeah, an awesome band.

And from Europe ;-).

All my favorite bands are from the UK.

And all the people over here are complaining that their favorites are from America.

That's bullshit. Europe makes the best music in the world. That's for goddamn sure. I think some of the best bands from the planet come from the UK. The best heavy band from the world comes from Sweden, Refused. As far as people like heavy music, the Shape of Punk to Come is the best ever written. I'm talking even compared to Sabbath. For me it's a masterpiece. Thank you Sweden. Those are my last words haha. They're fucking brilliant.

OK, thanks a lot.

Thanks, it has been a nice interview.

Interview by Tim Habraken, Daan Mol and Paco Weekenstroo.

Pictures by Joost van Ingen



By Martin Weber
FEARFUL
HC ETHICS

And she continues: "I have spoken to bands on bigger independent labels like Epitaph or Fat, and of those two labels in particular the people I have spoken to have not had a bad word to say about how the label is run or how they are dealt with as a band. I think it is also important for bands not to have unrealistic expectations of what an independent label can do for them, and to continue to work amongst themselves in an independent way. The independent punk/hc scene is not about manufacturing rock stars!"

Johan of Reflections brings the whole subject down to his own label. "It's easiest to speak from my own perspective, which is Reflections Records. We're earning a living with the label, yet do everything the way we want to do it. We don't have contracts with bands that are unreadable or unreasonable. We keep our prices

low, we are honest to our bands and usually even develop a friendship with them. We're not a label that wants to just 'sell units'. We like to create something together with a band, help them out, and try to grow together."

So it's all the love of the music and bands at a grass roots level. Jeff says the same about his label: "I have been living off of Smorgasbord Records as my full time job for the past 3 years. I answer to no one but myself, no one funds this label other than me. I am not saying that I am living the good life in some mansion, that is not the case, but the bills get paid month after month. If you are out to make a lot of money, then don't start a hc label and / or play in a hc band. Some hc bands get so big in the underground scene, that they hit the ceiling so to speak, and they cannot go any

WHITE TRASH ROB



The European hardcore party #8, a festival in Maastricht, Holland. For most members of the Inside Knowledge crew it's a long drive to the south every half year, but absolutely worth it. And Theo (the Noizz) seems to improve and surprise us every time again with a great set of bands. This time the headliner of the day was a band, which I really wanted to see once in a lifetime. I didn't think it would happen, 'cause last year the news came through that they were about to split up, but it turned out to be just a rumour. And now I not only witnessed their show, but also had the opportunity to do an interview with the man behind the band. A band anyone who has ever felt full of anger and hatred towards the world around them should be able to relate to Blood For Blood. And while he was tuning his guitar White Trash Rob answered all our questions honest and sincerely.

What did you think of the reactions on "Outlaw Anthems"? Where they positive or negative?

Almost every reaction I have heard or read, with the exception of about five, where very positive. The five I read that where fucking negative, made it to my shitlist. But that's the usual case, it seems the reaction on Blood for Blood is, you love us or you fucking hate us. I couldn't be hoped for better reactions., I rather

be loved or hated than fucking ignored. The reactions where a lot better than I would have expected, I thought nobody was going to care.

You play in three bands at the moment, which band is most important to you ?

Right now, the band I spent most time at is Ramallah, when we go back to the States we are doing a tour with Terror and after that a tour with American Nightmare. So I will be

spending a lot of time with them, but I am intending continuing with Blood For Blood, Sinners and Saints is not very active at all, but I an intending continuing, that when ever I feel like, also. I just gonna do whatever I want to do.

Do you find the time for it?

If I can I will, if I can't, I don't worry about it. I just gonna do whatever I feel like doing.

higher. Many of these bands want to grow and the only way to break through the ceiling and to step out onto the roof is through a large independent or a major. The only problem is that the major usually cannot successfully market the band, the underground fans get pissed, the band doesn't sell enough cds to deem being on a major, and the band is dropped and most likely breaks up."

Edward of Goodlife Recordings has an issue with people who moan about earning money from HC, and responds to that like: "I run a business in the first place. You can talk pretty words all night long, but if the kids who work here don't get

paid at the end of the month that that's it. Be realistic, everybody has to live and pay their bills. I think that might exactly be the biggest problem in hardcore, where kids who live with their parents and never had to pay a bill in their lives criticize people like us for whom hardcore is not just a hobby, a shirt to wear on the weekend. No! It's all that we have, it's our life and we live it."

Peter of Crucial Response records has his way of trying to stay out of the web of the business spider. "I'm finishing school for graphic design next year which means I have other priorities in my life. Because of that I can run the label



So there is no particular band you rather go on with?

Right now I am definitely spending the most about BFB and Ramallah, that's about 50/50, Sinners and Saints plays about one show every other month. We barely do anything.

Is it possible that we get a Sinners and Saint euro tour in the future, or is that impossible because one of the guys is afraid to fly?

That's my brother Mark, I hate flying too, I fucking hate it. I have to get high to do it, but my brother is probably just as afraid as I am. But the problem is, he has a full time job, so he is not really free to tour. It will probably be a problem to get him on a plane to begin with, but the main reason is that he can't get time off. My brother Mark is a very nice guy, but he is completely insane.

How is it with your anger towards the world, you have three bands on the roll, you are selling CD's. Has the anger become a little bit less than a few years ago?

Maybe on the frustration level a little bit less, because I know I reach the people I want to reach. But as far as the anger goes, no because the world is still a sick, sick, sick place and the quality of my life hasn't particularly been changed as a result of our music. I reach the people, that I want to reach, and that makes me less frustrated definitely, because feeling you are screaming in silence is a frustrated thing, makes you wanna blow up a bomb in public to get anyone's attention. It don't feel like that anymore, but as far as my aversion against society and my generation, I hate it as much as I ever did and I am as disgusted, by all those things, as I ever was.

So enough stuff to write about?

Oh yeah sure, especially now, with all the shit that is going on.

Let's talk about the shit that is going on right now in the world. What's your opinion about the American politics? In your songs you talk about white trash, but the government seems to have more interest in foreign politics than the problems in their own country and dealing with the White Trash.

They are doing nothing, that's half of the issue right there; they are running around, dropping bombs on people all over the world. Our government can't even solve problems in their own backyard. People are still shooting each other in my home town for fucking drugs and there is still a significant amount of trouble everywhere, everywhere! And we are running around playing protector all across the country, all across the world. We can't even deal with our own shit, who the fuck are we to be leading anybody.

Is it maybe an easy way out, because dropping bombs might be easier then solving problems in your own backyard.

It's a lot easier, because it is such a dramatic thing to do that, it is lot easier if the population is complicit to satisfy people with such a dramatic gesture, but that hasn't been working. A good portion of the American people are not satisfied by what they are being told, and they are not believing what they are being told, and you start to see it on the streets more then you have in the last thirty years or so. That is what Ramallah is about, these times that could be the end of the fucking world or at least the society we are living in today.

Is it so that you reserve a specific topic for a specific band?

Definitely, Ramallah is, without a doubt, a social political band, Blood for Blood is just me and Sinners and Saints is just everything else so far, that's what it is broken down to. I didn't want to turn BFB in to a political band, that wouldn't be right, that's not who we are. But I couldn't keep my mouth shut, either. So I had to start another band, that's Ramallah.

Why do you think Bush is so keen about Iraq?

I think it is not just straight out oil, it will be for a variety of reasons, I think it is not as simple as getting the oil there, but also unbalance the entire region. I think they are just tired to dealing with them because they've proven to be so unreliable, spreading terrorism and shit like that. They want to interfere with the entire region and the infrastructure, and Iraq is a good place to start. It is also a good example for everybody else in the neighboring countries, LOOK WHAT WE CAN DO! I think those are the real reasons behind it. I don't support those reasons at all.

I think most of the American people do not support those reasons?

No they don't, most of them will say no to those reasons, but they don't get the right information. As free as America is there is no logical, rational discussion in the media, the media is controlled by the government and media script writers, that's it, you don't see any representation of real honest street level thoughts, that's why they take it to the streets to protest.

This interview was interrupted by a visit of one of the guys who plays in Inhuman to have a bit of a chat. They where happy to see each other.

X: How long are you staying?

WTR: We leave in the morning, so we have to go out bed around six in the fucking morning.

X: Shit man, but how was you flight?

WTR: It was very smooth flight, they flow on schedule and I thought we only were on the plain for 5 minutes.

X: Was it crowded on the plain? Or not?

WTR: Hell yeah! It was a big plain.

X: You know what was funny, through Germany customs. They didn't check anything they didn't ask

us anything, they didn't do anything, only checked our passes, but that was it.

WTR: That's awesome! I got my passport torn apart by some guy in Belgium, and I was like, "Oh my god now it's fucking torn apart, now I can't go back home."

I.K: I read something about that on a message board.

WTR: They did, no shit! How on the world did that happen?

I.K: Small world on the Internet.

X: But I see you in a bit.

WTR: See you later, man!

Do you think the American people are willing to make concessions on the fact that they waste a lot of oil to drive big cars?

They should be! If they're not, get yourself a mop to mop up the blood, cause they not going to stop spilling. If we're not going to make changes the bleeding is not going to stop. It's gonna keep happening. Changes have to be made, that's what Ramallah is all about. A whole bunch of changes have to be made. I think if you spread out through America, spent a fucking dollar more on gas a gallon or bury the son? I know what the answer would be, I know what the answer should be. The average men in a bar, you hear go on and on about supporting U.S. policy, but when you break it down on them, what do you want to trade, personally to maintain the military presents in Saudi Arabia, the answer is fucking zero. That's were it really falls down to, that's what the fundamentals want, they don't want us in their region. I don't blame them, I don't want us around me either. Not that I don't support any of these guys. They are tyrannical to there own people, if they ever come to power, they will stifle and suppress there own people and be murderous. But the core that motivates them is silence and it's turning into an abomination, that's what happens with hatred if it appears a lot after 40 or 50 years in some cases. What do you do about it? I don't know, I don't have the answers to that. What I do know is that I see a lot of wrongs going on.

Aren't there some politicians who do see the things that go wrong and openly talk about it?

There is this Chomsky...men like that, he is correct. I think he is the only rational guy in the West. There are voices as far as political, but none of them are really heard yet, but some of them will. It's these kind of times that produce new vicars or society's going to crumble that's one or the other, make a choice. I don't know what to choose. Five years ago I would have said: "Let it fucking burn, let the walls fall down! I don't care." But there are a few people that I care about in this world and I don't want to tread them for corporate profit. It's not worth it to me. I have enough of the state of society in general to bleed for and I'm not going to, if I can help it. If I can get that word out there and make changes, I feel like I have to! Now is the time. Hopefully some one will listen to Ramallah.

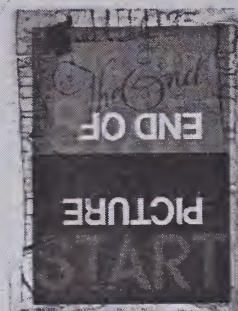
By Martin Wilson
FEATURE
EXCLUSIVE

as a by product outside of the rules of doing business. And I love the way it is now, just for the integrity of not selling out to someone!"

And not only the commitment, integrity and love for the music are interpreted differently from the majors. "If there is a difference between majors and big indies, I would say that majors are much closer to the multinationals and conglomerates of this world, and thus can wield power that makes the aforementioned disputes seem like child's play (i.e. the infamous Thom EMI and their ties with the nuclear arms industry)" concludes Mark 'Barney' Greenway.

If you'd like to voice your opinion about the subject, feel free to send an e-mail to info@insideknowledge.net so we can put your opinion on our site. Or you can get to the forum at www.insideknowledge.net and add your ideas. Hardcore is still about communication, one of the important things that hasn't changed over the years.

Special thanks goes out to Tim Cundle of Mass Movement fanzine for this linguistic support and for our conversations about how cool thrashmetal is.





How is it with your interests in the punk and hardcore music?

I don't pay that much attention to it. Not lately, for years. There are bands that came out that I love. I still listen to the bands that I always listen to. I don't really go out that much any more. I just stay home and do drugs.

Drugs are bad for you! I past out this morning after smoking a joint on an empty stomach. I am doing worse drugs.

I was wondering... You talk about the differences between BfB on one side and Ramallah on the other side. If you choose a specific topic and you have to write a song about it for both bands, for example politics. When you write a song about this topic for Ramallah, you write it with the society in mind and when you write for BfB you write from your own perspective.

That is the fundamental difference. People say that BfB isn't a political band, Yeah were not, we are not specifically, but some of the explanations, for why we hate our rude social political perspective, it's the haves versus the have nots, it is class envy. These things exists, they are a significant motivation for BfB, so yeah, we are not politically, but who isn't motivated by politic? It's what makes world goes round, I guess. Money does anyway, and money is politics no matter how you look at it. Yeah, one is more specifically social political, one has a "men on street" sort of perspective. I felt there has to be a

separation, didn't want to turn BfB in some sort of preachy band, so I said I start something new and they can take it for what it is or leave it.

So there is a possibility that you write a song that can switch to another band?

Yeah that's possible, both bands are probably attacking the same things, they just doing it in different ways.

Does that also come back into the music it self or is Ramallah more based on the political idea. 'cause some say if you want to reach people on the streets you do that with oi or street punk music like that and if you want to use music for political ends you use hardcore or old school, is that also the way you write your songs?

The motivation behind the band is obviously politics or at least a social political perspective. I just indulge all kinds of music that I couldn't do with BfB for all those years because of the crappy musicians in the band. Like the old drummer from BfB he was garbage, terrible! So we could only do certain shit. With Ramallah we do a lot of things I couldn't do for a long time. A lot of the music we play now with Ramallah is very heavy, it has a heavy tone, but that's music of the nowadays and I like a lot of it. So it kinda meets up well with what's going on. The music is very right now, the lyrics are very right now, it seems to be working.

In a lot of songs you talk about your alcohol addiction, did all the writing have a therapeutic influence on you?

No, I've actually gone in a lot of worse things since "All Fucked Up" came out and shit like that. There is a drug in the U.S called oxycodone, I don't know if you have it here in Holland, but it's a synthetic heroine. They're painkillers it's narcotic but it's the same thing as other junk.

We don't know them, 'cause we don't use them. Exactly! Oxycodone is basically heroine.

Do you need drugs?

I'm uncomfortable all the time, wherever I am. I'm uncomfortable right now. I don't know why. I'm generally in a state of anxiety. It's definitely self medication. I'm not doing it because I think it's cool, I'm not like: "He let's do heroine because it's fun and hip." I just do it 'cause I need it. I just can't live without these things. If I stop, I blow my fucking head off, just like when I drink I want to blow my head off. That's the way it's always gone and that's way it seems to be progressing my live also.

Did you try some other things?
Tried some things.

Like a psychiatrist?

Yes, I should probably go to a shrink.

Are you afraid to go?

No, I'm just lazy. And the drugs are all over the place.

Is that also a typical thing about the U.S, you can buy everything on the street?

It's something what I've always done. It's difficult to change things like that. I've been in detox, rehab and all that shit. I feel the way that I am is the way I am, because I see the truth. I don't have to acknowledge the fact that maybe I've been destroying myself for years. I am motivated by what I consider the truth, I don't want to be told that, the way I've been looking at the world all the time is wrong, I'm not wrong. I think the very fact that I'm looking at the world correctly is what gives me pain.

Because you're the only one who is seeing it that way?

At least and obviously the people that are up with the music and that's it. And you do feel isolated, and like screaming your head off. I think that everybody who's using drugs, feels that way. I'm not the only one who feels that way. It's one of the signs.

I think this is it, we don't have any more questions.

It was a great interview guys! Thank you!

Is there something else you want to say to the readers of our magazine.

I'm not going anywhere. If I still have a breath to draw, I'm gonna keep doing this shit with maybe Blood for Blood, maybe Ramallah maybe Sinners and Saints, maybe something else like a country record.

I hope you continue making music, 'cause you're great!
Thank you.

Be careful with yourself!

Yeah! I'll try that.

Interview by Carel & Martijn..

Written by Evelien & Carel.

Pictures by Joost

Thanx to the real C.J. the D.J.

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Caliban almost needs no introduction, these German metalcore pioneers reap havoc wherever they come and astonish their public with their brutal and energetic performance and apocalyptic sound. They did it again at the Groezrock festival in Belgium where they definitely won some souls for the good cause. The Groezrock festival is the perfect opportunity and setting for a bit of chitchat with Robert and Andy about personal interests, some misconceptions and the benefit of weed.

What do you think is an original question for an interviewer to ask you, because you've done all the interviews with Caliban the past years?

R: That's a hard question, I don't know, I can't imagine of an original question but I know a really bad question I get asked every time. It's: Could you tell us the story of Caliban, the whole band history? It sucks, it's so long. But anyway there are a lot of people who don't know Caliban, so actually it's a good question but it's not cool to answer, because it's such a long answer.

Are there any turning points in your life when you decided to join a band and start with making this kind of music?

R: I don't know. I play drums since I'm nine years old, so I just wanted to play music. I think this kind of music has a lot of energy so I can bring my energy into the music. Actually I just wanted to do energetic music and I think it just came with the time. I came into hardcore with bands like Biohazard and Sick Of It All and it was the energy that took me.

A: It's quite the same with me, I just wanted to play music and have a band for a hobby.

Isn't it hard to reinvent yourself every album, do you feel the need to make something totally different and experiment with vocals for instance?

R: My personal opinion is that it gets boring when you play the same music on two

albums. I don't like to play the same style on two cd's, but I don't think Shadow Hearts is so different from Vent.

A: Shadow Hearts is a bit more metallic and I think the songwriting is better.

I personally think musically it's more melodic and not so aggressive.

A: Not so aggressive?

R: I think it's much harder than Vent, but maybe it's easier to get into the music because of the male vocals.

Aren't you getting sick and tired of people asking you to compare all the different Caliban albums?

R: Good question, but it's part of the business I think. We wrote the music for Shadow Hearts and when we played the songs we noticed that male vocals would fit good into the music, so we asked Christoph from Mournful to sing. We tried it out and it was awesome, so we just wanted to do that.

You both think Shadow Hearts is the best Caliban album but why?

R: It has the best songwriting and the best songs.

A: And the production is killer, I like it totally. I like the clean parts and I hope I can sing it next year because at the moment I'm taking singing lessons and after the tour I want to take lessons every week.

What topics does Shadow Hearts deal with according to you?

A: I think it's the same as on the others, wishes and dreams.

Can you relate to the personal lyrics Andy writes?

R: Most of the lyrics are written when Andy is in a bad mood or when he has problems with some persons or with some girls. He tries to express his feelings in the lyrics but it is very personal so I can't say anything special about the lyrics because it's his personal experiences and feelings. Most of the time Marc writes the guitar riffs and we try to put it together at practice and Andy listens to the music and then writes the lyrics to the music.

What things like books and movies keep you busy when you're not doing music?

R: Lots of things, I study besides the band and I work besides the band.

Is there not something that really affects you like a specific book, song or a movie?

A: Maybe it's the poem in the A Small Boy And A Grey Heaven booklet by Henry David Thoreau, I think it's a very good poem, I think it's very beautiful, but I don't think I really have one special thing. I watch a lot of movies and I'm very inspired by David Lynch. I like him very very much, he's the king. Do you know him? He's from Twin Peaks and Lost Highway. So weird, he's the best. One song from our new album, between the worlds, is kind of a David Lynch song it's a little bit about the story of Twin Peaks.

Do you consider yourself a person with a negative outlook on life and how does that influence you in your music?

A: I write dark and sad lyrics. I'm not so often happy, that's right. I think a lot of bad things so I write lyrics about bad things. I don't like my life very much, but I don't know why.

Why not, you've experienced things lots of people can only dream about?

A: Everything is okay, but I don't know. It's not good, I don't like life but on the other hand I don't want to kill myself.

Do you also see the music as a means to change the way you feel or at least express your feelings?

R: The music has given me the energy to live.

A: I try to learn from the lyrics that I write. I write it and when I read them some time afterwards I try to learn from it, what happened at that time and whatever I did wrong.

Isn't it really hard to sing something really personal that you wrote a couple of years ago and confront yourself with it time and time again and maybe see it as something ridiculous because in the time that passed and your current situation it's not applicable to you?

A: I have a couple of songs that make me very sad when I sing them, but it's my job. Most songs I'm okay with. But in the past we had two songs that were about straightedge, I don't want to sing about that anymore because I'm not straightedge and I never was, so I don't want to sing about that.

You also told me once that you didn't prefer to sing Assassin Of Love, but you did today, why?

A: At the time I wrote the song I was very sad and pissed and I couldn't imagine that I would ever have sex or some form of sexual intimacy with a girl without love, so I wrote this song. But now I have changed my mind a bit because so many things have happened, bad things with my girlfriend and other girls and so I changed my mind and nowadays I live the way I want to. It's egoistic but I think so many people are egoistic and when you are not egoistic a little bit, not too much because that sucks, if you are not egoistic a little bit than you can't go on in life very well.

Andy: Do you have something to smoke like hash or weed?

J: Sorry man, I've smoked it all last night.

A: So many people smoke here, there are so many people with joints and everytime I cross the terrain I smell the weed. You know, I've just stopped smoking cigarettes so I just want to smoke one, two maybe three joints a day but no cigarettes, it's really hard not to smoke anything. Yesterday at our first show I asked a boy if he had anything to smoke and there was a guy who was willing to sell four grams for 25 euro's but it was too much. I don't want four grams, one gram is enough. I was a little bit afraid that if I'd buy four



grams I had to cross the border with it and well you never know if the police might stop us. In Wuppertal where I live there is a shop, not a regular one it's a bar but everybody smokes there, it's quite okay but when the police comes it's not okay.

Do you see smoking and drinking as a means of escapism or do you just do it to enjoy and relax.

A: I smoke and drink because I like it, it's just for my own good feeling. I don't drink everyday, only in the weekends when I go out or to a party than I drink, it's better. I smoke weed to open my mind, I think I wrote almost every lyric when I was stoned. I see things different when I'm stoned it helps me write my lyrics and poems. I can write better when I've smoked some weed it just opens up my mind and everything flows, it comes better out of myself.

You smoke and drink while most of the other guys in the band are straightedge, does it have an affect on how you guys interact within the band?

A: They know that I drink and smoke and I think that they're okay with it. I personally think straightedge is the best way you can live, no drinking, no smoking, no meat, it's

the best you can do. But it's everyone's own choice, I'm okay with everyone when they let me live my own life.

R: it's okay, it's Andy so.....

One of the biggest misconceptions about Caliban is that you are a straightedge band, I also used to think that, how come?

R: Yes I know, people assume we are vegan straightedge, but we never were! Maybe people think that because we are on Lifeforce records and Lifeforce was a vegan straightedge label back in the days, today it's not anymore. We were never a vegan straightedge band, we were never vegan and we were never straightedge. I personally listen to straightedge music when it's good, but it's not important if the band is straightedge or not. What's important is if I like their style and if they play good music. I adopted the straightedge lifestyle when I was fourteen. I went to a couple of straightedge shows in my area and I just started with it and it became my lifestyle. I used to drink alcohol when I was 12 and 13, but I got really drunk a couple of times and I realised that it wasn't the thing I wanted to do. I've been living this way for ten years now and it became normality for me.

Does Caliban have a political message?

R: We all have our own political convictions but Caliban is not a political band, we didn't start the band because of any political or ideological reason. We're not a straight-edge band, we're not a vegan band we just wanted to make music with five individuals with different opinions on some topics. Caliban is all about tolerance, you have to tolerate people that think different, that's the only message we want to spread.

What does Caliban mean to you at this point in your life?

R: It's my band and it's the biggest part of my life right now, because I put so much time into this music and I love to play shows and play music, it makes me happy. Sometimes it's hard to play the shows in the weekend because you don't see your friends that often and they're having a good time while you are playing a show somewhere. When we have a weekend off I really enjoy it, because I can meet up with my friends. But still Caliban is the biggest part of my life at this moment.

Imagine Caliban breaking up or something like that what would you do and would it be a big loss in your life?

R: I think so, because Caliban is a big element of my life and I think I would lose something big.

Could you replace it and with what would you replace it?

R: I don't know how I would replace it. I think I would play drums a few hours a day to make my music, actually I really don't know how I would replace it.

Whats more important to you, you playing drums or you playing in Caliban?

R: Both is very important, when I play in Caliban and when I play live I can live out my energy and I can also do that when I play my drums at home, it's not quite the



same but kind of the same. I love my instrument, I love my drums so I love to play but playing in a band is something different.

What are the best and the worst things Caliban gave you?

R: The best things are that I can live out my energy with the band. That I get to see a lot of places, I've been in Japan and in the US twice in the last two years and that I get to know a lot of people. The worst thing is that I don't get to see my friends so often.

Which country do you see as trendsetting for the European hardcore scene?

R: Germany, what I see in Germany is that the whole hardcore scene is on the rise, its getting bigger and bigger. When you go to a hardcore show you don't see only hardcore kids anymore, you see metalkids, numetalkids and all different types of people. We also try to combine a lot of styles and we try to combine somewhat the different scenes, the metascene and the hardcore scene and maybe sometimes the numetalscene. Actually we try to combine everything.

Is there a big difference between the scene on the east-side and the west-

side of Germany?

A: In the east there is much more metal, real metal and not so much hardcore, lots of bands that come from the eastside sound really metal.

R: The scene in the west is very different because it's not so metal it's more hardcore related and toughguyrelated. Both scenes are totally different, but i'm really pleased with the fact that metalcore is finally on the rise in Germany, it's getting really big.

Was combining the scenes also the intention of Caliban or is it something that came up along the way?

R: Yeah that came up along the way. When you look in the US, the metal and hardcore scenes are working together really well. There are a lot of hardcore bands going on tour with metal bands like Hatebreed with Slayer or something. I think that in Europe we can learn from them. When you look at festivals like Full Force in Germany, they are doing a really good job combining the scenes, they have Slayer and Soulfly playing on one side of the terrain and on the other side Caliban is playing and Hatebreed and Unearth, they are doing an excellent job combining everything.

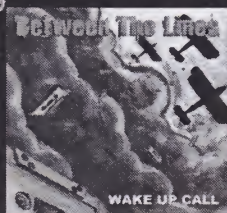
Any shout outs?

R: It was a great festival and it was a great day. Thanks for the interview and thanks to all the people who supported us today and support us the way they do.

Not long after this interview Robert decided to leave the band to concentrate on his study.



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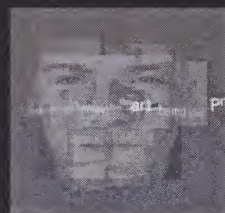


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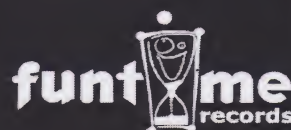
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fordirelifesake

just a tourreport

Morning of 27th February 2003: I wake up and realise the time has come to catch my flight, destination Tokyo, Japan with one of my favourite bands Fordirelifesake on tour. I (Skippy flying from Spain) and Fordirelifesake (Brian, Eric, Matt, Dave, Justin flying from USA) head to Japan for the 9 day tour with Tokyo's amazing emotional band Endzweck and this is how we spent our time.

28 February 2003 – Arrival at Tokyo airport

Having spent 11 hours on the plane and jumping the time zone 9 hours, I arrive in Tokyo slightly dazed and confused but extremely excited. Immigration was a much easier task than I had imagined and as I was coming out of arrivals I spotted my 2 friends: Daiki Takeda (Booking Agent / Alliance Trax) and Kentaro (our crazy driver), both sporting their very own Fordirelifesake t-shirts. "Woah I can't believe I am here in Tokyo". During the following few hours we hung out at Tokyo airport where I got my first taste of Japanese sushi whilst waiting for Fordirelifesake to arrive. After hundreds of exchanged emails, I finally got to meet the Detroit dudes (Fdl's) as they walked through the arrivals gate, we were all so excited to see each other. We headed through Tokyo city to our sleeping place whilst taking millions of photos and screaming in the van. Tonight was also the first time we met the Endzweck guys who were the nicest people in the world and we got on with them from the first moment.

1 March 2003 – Tokyo @ Egg-site

Tokyo traffic is a nightmare unless you have a driver like Kentaro who seems to have his own set of driving rules... well they got us to the venue in one piece for the first show of the tour. Being total music junkies, me, Fordirelifesake and Kentaro headed over to the nearest music shop for our quick fix of strings and drum sticks.

Later that day, I remember being woken up by Fordirelifesake sound checking – woohoo! The opening bands Loyal To The Grave, Birthplace really kick started the show well with a big dance floor movement. Then Endzweck hit the stage and the whole club went crazy singing along for their Tokyo boys. Endzweck seemed to speak a lot on stage but don't ask me what it was about, as every word was in Japanese, but the crowd seemed to respond to it whatever they were talking about. Finally our Detroit motor city superstars Fordirelifesake hit the stage beginning with an atmospheric intro and straight away breaking into "We Burn In Our Own Comfort" (Deluge / Fordirelifesake "Self-Titled" CD) shortly followed by "Just A Memory" and "Sometimes Like The Tide" ("Breathing In Is Only Half The Function" CD) with the crowd response being overwhelming, as well as mine. First time seeing Fordirelifesake live and it was nothing short of amazing.

2 March 2003 – Shizuoka @ Sunash

How big can Mount Fuji be? F***ing huge comes to mind. The scene: a never-ending snow covered motorway, photo snapping and this big mountain – yes we drove all the way round it, stopping off for the finest sushi on the way. At lunch, we tasted all sorts of delicious Japanese foods and spoke with Endzweck a lot but not really saying much as no of us spoke Japanese.

If there was an Olympic event for stage diving Endzweck would surely win. Tonight the Endzweck guitarist did a 360 degree roll, followed by a stage dive into the crowd – completely INSANE! That just was the highlight of the night. After, I could feel the paint stripping from the walls as every single person moshed it up big time for Fordirelifesake, again with loads of singing along. An hour after the show we drove up to the temple where we were sleeping for the night, the temple being Endzweck guitarist's home! After midnight, Eric Fdl's and I wandered around the local streets but got locked out of the temple, then we had to bang on the windows so they would open the doors for us.

3 March 2003 – Nagoya @ Tightrope

Temple breakfast – read my lips – temple breakfast! Fresh fruit, rice, sushi, vegetables everything in the world you can imagine.

Time for the next show...we loaded in all the merchandise whilst it was snowing and again tonight the club was totally packed out, which really made us feel great. Fordirelifesake guys were pleasantly surprised because so many fans brought along the red Skipworth version of "Breathing In Is Only Half The Function" album for them to sign.

Well Japan kicks ass and tonight's show proved the most chaotic so far, ending with a broken microphone and stage dives not even a stunt man could perform!!! If no one stopped the fans I think they would have pulled every member of Fordirelifesake into the pit.

After the show Uchuu (Endzweck drummer) set up some kind of an after party where we all drunk till 5 in the morning, spilling drunken gestures on how amazed everyone was to be on tour in Japan. We ran out leaving a 690000 yen bill and some how made it in one piece to our hostel.

4 March 2003 – Kyoto @ Whopees

After 3 hours of sleep and everybody feeling rough we made it to Kyoto which is easily Japan's temple capital and hometown of the amazing Naiad. Endzweck took us to see the local temples leaving us completely astounded.

Tonight was again a totally packed out show with around 200 people, proving that the Kyoto scene is more than alive than ever. Home town boys Naiad made every person in the venue scream their lungs out to their emotional explosion of music. Endzweck and Fordirelifesake were jumping all over the place feeling the crowds energy and vice versa. After the show it was really nice to meet some fans who came from a long way away to be at the show.

5 March 2003 – Niigata @ Woody

Waking up real early we had a long drive ahead of us to Niigata. We finally made it, sound checked and walked around the city. Brian (Fordirelifesake) leading us to a record store took one step inside and immediately one step out. He was in total shock. The Fordirelifesake album was playing on the store's stereo. After Eric and I hit the streets with the camera and filmed just about everything we possibly could.

About the show, tonight was a small show but really intimate and great. Commune opened the show and left everybody clapping along for more, they play really awesome blend of melodic punk rock and are very energetic – a band to definitely watch out for. Tonight some tough pit action by a few guys to Fdl's. The guys from Commune, to celebrate, took us out for dinner to a really nice sushi place where again we had a great laugh and jokes.

6 March 2003 – Yamagata @ Flavor

We drove through the night to Yamagata and during the day just chilled out, walked around, talked too much about everything and off course did some shopping. Tonight's show was already sold out few weeks before. During sound check Fordirelifescape treated us to hearing a brand new song they were working on! Sounded great. The show turned out to be totally awesome again. Complete chaos broke out for Endzweck and Fordirelifescape, everybody dancing along, it felt like an inferno and not a single person more could fit into the venue Flavor.



7 March 2003 – Sendai @ Birdland

Driving to Sendai proved to be extra difficult as we hit a serious snow storm in the mountains forcing us to turn back and buy special snow tyres. This was insane, totally out of control weather conditions, bridges covered with snow and in the end we ended up pushing the van out of snow to turn back. I jumped around in the 1 meter deep snow, then we all hung out in the garage and were shocked by how advanced Japan's driving guide systems are (come on Europe what you waiting for?). Finally we got on to our alternative route and arrived a little late at the venue Birdland catching some bands already playing. Another sold out show, with the people watching Fordirelifescape very close and seemed to love it. We met the guy who runs Tribe.jp (online webzine) and talked about how great Japan is.

8 March 2003 – Tokyo Shimokitazawa @ Era

It doesn't get any better than this. Sold out show in Tokyo to 350 people and woah we are speechless. Great bands such as Come Back My Daughters, Sequence Pulse, Everlast and Naiaid also played and they were all amazing. Watching Endzweck again was an inspiration to us – these guys have so much energy it's just not possible! Fordirelifescape got an outstanding response and got the whole crowd moving and singing along. The pit was huge and many people stage diving. Brian, after second thoughts, decided not to stage dive into the crowd as he is one heavy "whitebear" (his nickname in the band... don't ask me why). Matt was speaking in English to the crowd but

even though they couldn't understand everything they still cheered and shouted. I stage dived again pretty much during every Fordirelifescape song, it was just such an amazing feeling to be hearing all my favourite songs live. After the show we hung out with people at the show and just talked to everyone.

9 March 2003 – Koiwa @ eM Seven

As fast as the first day of the tour came so did the last and everybody was kind of realising that tonight is the end of the tour. We set up at the club and by the end of the first band the place was packed full which was so awesome once again. Stand To Last played tonight such an energetic set of total old school '88 style hardcore making it great to see Japanese old school bands representing! Before I could even say "Gooo" it was time for Endzweck – a special show tonight as the tour's last show and bassist's (Joshi) last night playing with Endzweck. Everybody was on stage almost in tears as Joshi played his last notes with Endzweck. The crowd definitely gave him a great farewell show feeling the emotion. Fordirelifescape played an incredible show with even Kentaro (remember our insane driver) helping with the singing during one song. The Fordirelifescape set was complete chaos with stage diving, singing along and all the moves you can dream of. An amazing show to end the tour with!

So there you go our Japanese tour, the experience of a life time crammed into ten days, an incredible tour... I and Fordirelifescape couldn't have dreamt of more. I hope everybody gets the chance to experience this!!! If you want to say hello please write me at skippy@skipworthrecords.com / skipworthrecords.com and to

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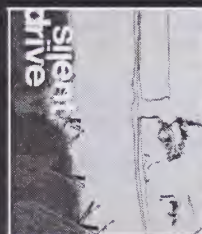


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REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

ACP - Las Semillas Del Mañana MCD (964 Records)

Only two songs to get to know the world of ACP. "Sacrificio 675" (or Sacrifice 675) and "Los Dueños Del Mundo" (or Lords of the world) combine new school and metalcore with some NYHC in the vein of Killing Time. Done quite well, although the sound has too much of a demo feeling to it. Mostly because of the guitar sound. Nevertheless a good first effort by the band, and the lyrics totally rock. "Los Dueños Del Mundo" is questioning the way some so called powerful people in this world think they can get away with acting the way they do. Yes, they are in Spanish, but fortunately I got the English translation too. Worth checking out! Oh, two cd rom tracks included!!
Martijn Welzen

A18 - Forever After Nothing CD (Victory Records)

It is me, or is A18 just like Death By Stereo on speed? Forget all the more technical aspects of DBS and ad some more anger. Great hardcore based on the end of the '80, taking is all further than the youth crew stuff, but keeping too much metal out of the songs, although they never leave a good riff out when a songs asks for it the band took it all further than were they left of with "All My Heroes Are Dead" and have included influences and strange little hooks to their music. People have said Victory records have made its way towards the emcore-oriented band, well forget it. Hold on to your cup of coffee cause A18 is going to make waves.
Martijn Welzen

Adequate Seven - Songs Of Innocence And Of Experience CD (Household Name Records)

Let's start by saying : THIS IS ALLREADY ONE OF THE BEST ALBUMS I WILL REVIEW THIS YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Adequate Seven from Wales is one of those bands who are able to make a perfect mix between hardcore, punk, ska and funk. The music is catchy, fast, happy and hard. Their inspiration they get from bands like Sick of It All and Gorilla Biscuits but also from Funkadelic and A Tribe Called Quest. If this band, that formed in 2000 continues to grow at this rate, it won't take five years to get to the absolute top. And the thirteen songs on this album are the proof to that. Check out www.adequate7.co.uk to see where these guys are having a party!
Carel Groenen

Afterlife - Enter the dragon MCD (Crucial Response Records)

I always thought that crucial response only released old school youth crew hxc but this new release proves me wrong. Afterlife from Spain play rocking original oldschool hxc / punk in the vein of As Friends Rust, especially the first song. You can hear the same emotion and melody in their music, but these guys also throw in some Reach the Sky influences. Some songs refer more to the oldschool sound while others refer more to the rocking A.F.R. sound. That makes this mcd a welcome surprise with some high quality diverse songs. Can't wait to hear more from these Spanish muchachos.
Paco

Against Time - Never Forever CD (Meter Records)

Jesus! This sounds excellent! The emo-hardcore tunes are amazing. Good sing-a-long songs, nice lyrics too! Fine layout, nice booklet. You know those songs who keep playing on and on inside your head? Well this CD is full of them. Take 'After all is said and done' and 'Turn the page' for example..Great songs, give it a go!
Bart

Age of Disgrace - ... Those Who Persist MCD (Filled With Hate Records)

I don't want to judge anyone, but is there still room for the deathcore bands with total mosh parts and grunting vocals, after we already have had a zillion of them? Germany and Belgium to have patented this particular style and Age of Disgrace seem to have the art down. Bloodshot, Drift, Irate, Copykill, Born From Pain... all of the above mixed with some old school metal and some hip hop intro's. Sound is okay, and you can mosh things up for sure. As with all the bands, I like the fast, heavy metallic parts, but the slower almost hip hop parts don't really have my interest. Nice, but not exceptional.
Martijn Welzen

Agnostic Front/Discipline - Working Class Heroes Double LP (Knock Out Records)

We didn't receive the complete album release from I Scream Records, only the CD. So this review is about the LP version brought to you by Knock Out. Two bands which both make music for the working class. Agnostic Front, for years the leading street hardcore band in the world and from Eindhoven(NL) on of the best European streetcore bands, Discipline. This Double LP is recorded at a live gig at the Lintfabriek in Belgium. On the first album 17 A.F. classics with for example "Victim In Pain" and "Riot Riot Upstart" and after all these years Miret and co still know how to play a powerful live set! On the second LP 14 songs full of passion, anger and energy from the thugs from Holland, and they have delivered an excellent job with this live album. As a matter of fact , their sound on this one is even better than Agnostic Front. Both albums are packed in a great layout and every skin, punk, and hardcore freak should have this one for his or her collection.
Carel Groenen

All Odds Against Me - Hitting back hard MCD (D.I.Y.)

This new band from Fryslan, the upper North of Holland, knows how to surprise me in a positive way. Hitting back hard reminds me of the first time I heard the first full-length of No Innocent Victim and the first time I heard Strength Through Unity from 25talife. These seven tracks have got a lot of very convincing oldschool nyhc elements without get boring one second. Want to hear this old furious and energetic blasting sound of a few years ago again? Check these guys out and get in touch. As a delightful dessert A.O.A.M. recorded as a bonus song "Fucking Hostile" from the almighty Pantera. Yeah baby, this is the shit! Fryslan strikes back with a blast. Check <http://www.alloddsagainstme.com> for more info.
Paco

Anal Beard - We, the drag CD (Boss Tuneage Records)

Why, in god's name, do I get the worst CDs to review? And I'm serious here. Are you guys fucking with me, did I do something wrong? Was it something I said? If so: I can change! Give me a chance and give me something good to review!
Bart

And None of Them Knew They Were Robots - Liebestod MCD (In At The Deep End Records)

There are two main subjects surrounding this ep. On has got to do with the lyrics, which are connected with the title (which is a conflation of the German words for Love (Liebe) and Death (Tot)), and is an interpretation of the bands view on this and they way the words are connected. The second subject of the record is of a musical kind. All songs are written as if they were covers from Minor Threat. The same DC hardcore sound, the same type of vocals etc. Only one of

the songs "No Reason" actually is a cover of the Dischord legends, the others are just so MT as they possibly can get. The ep as a whole totally rocks, and all of you who either know "the Robots" or love Minor Threat should dig in. Great layout too!!
Martijn Welzen

Angelic Upstarts - Still From The Heart CD (Captain Oil)

After reviewing their latest album (Sons of Spartacus) which by the way is a great album I was very surprised when I received not a year later another Upstarts CD. But no... not a new album, but a collection of the worst shit they have ever made. This shows that sometimes even the greatest opponents against society , try to go for the money. Luckily for the older fans of this band they didn't succeed. And after being dropped by the major labels it all became okay with the Angelic Upstarts. More about this late-seventies-punk-band you can find at <http://www.angelicupstarts.co.uk>.
Carel Groenen

Angelic Upstarts - Teenage Warning CD Angelic Upstarts - We Gotta Get Out of This Place CD (Captain Oil)

Two albums in one review because both are re-releases. And you can say what you want about The Angelic Upstarts but you can't say that they not tried it all. Pop punk to old school punk, they did it. On this two albums you can hear the Upstarts at their best and take me for my word, this is not in the pop punk way. What more can I say about a band that everybody knows? Thanks to Captain Oil! (Teach those youngsters what it was all about :))
Carel Groenen

A Shroud Cast Over - s/t MCD (Benihana Records)

This is a re-release of five songs by this band from Milwaukee (Wisconsin) which originally dates from December 2001. In the first place I wondered why people would re-release songs from a new band which is already 1.5 years old but after listening to this mcd this question was already answered. A Shroud Cast Over has got a great unique sound and the songs have got a very high quality. This is very diverse melodic metalcore played with a lot of emotion and passion, which you can hear back in these recordings. I'm glad that the guys of Benihana re-released these fine songs and put some attention to this new band. Hope to hear more from this band soon. This debut-release from them is already a perfect start and a promising beginning.
Paco

Astro Zombies a.d. - Mutants at Mosa Trajectum CD (Gangstyle Records)

This CD is a tribute album, from a lot of Dutch hardcore/punk celebrities, to Glenn Danzig and The Misfits. Maurice Gijbsers (Right Direction) is the founder of this project and it really started to get shape when he received the help from his friends, from Right Direction and Backfire!, Boris and Igor Wouters. The honours to sing the lyrics of Glenn Danzig on this album are for Joost (Discipline), Marco (De Heideroosjes), Michiel (Uppercut), John Paul (The Butcher), Raoul (Sectarian) and Kevin (Demon Joker Junior). There are 10 Misfits songs and two Danzig on this disc, so a must for every fan. Buy this one and sing along with the classics such as Skulls and Angelfuck. Order at www.gangstylerecords.com.
Carel Groenen

Baby little Tablets, Baby little Tablets CD (Boss Tuneage Records)

Japanese punks are crazy. And can also be said for Baby little Tablets. The lyrics are weird and full of spelling-errors! The music's funny, and I keep wondering where this'll go. It's there debut album and it's pop-punk to the bone!
Bart

Barseros - Pushy Polemics CD (Trash 2001 Records)

This is the third release since 1997 from these five guys from Germany. This is the first album in my collection so I didn't know what to expect. No, I cannot get used to the music, the voice and the combination between the two things. Not even after a couple of times. This has to be dirty and fast punk. Ok it is pretty fast what they are doing but it is not dirty enough to my ears. I have the idea I am missing something or I hear too much. I promise that, when I see this album in my CD rack in about a couple of years, I will listen to it again and maybe reconsider my opinion. On their website (<http://www.barseros.de>) you can download some songs. Listen to them and tell me what you think about them.
Carel Groenen

Battle Royale - DEMO
(Own Release)

Oh lucky me.... The first three songs of this demo will be put on a 7" later on, but I get to hear five tracks with this demo. After Berlin metalcore band Disrespect fell apart members when their separate ways to form Jaylan (former Devil Inside) and others formed Battle Royale. Storming forward like a mixture of Candiria, Cradle of Filth and Liar this could become a thrash metal / hardcore combo to look out for. The riffs are way cool, but it could use a bit more structure for my taste, but the overall idea is just so brutal, the speed, the chaos and all sung in German, but knowing the vocals are almost up the blackmetal alley that won't make a difference. Nice addition to the scene as a whole and I'm looking forward to seeing them live once.

Martijn Welzen

Beecher - Resentment is a big world in a small town MCD
(In At The Deep End Records)

Rocking melodic and chaotic riffs and vocals that vary from high screamed parts to beautiful clean parts, that's how to describe the sound of this English band. It wouldn't surprise me if the singer of Beecher is kicked really hard in his nuts. The high screamings he uses sound unique and nice but after a while they can get very boring. Thank god the singer throws in a lot of variation with using both these high screams and some clean vocal parts. These melancholic but beautiful clean vocals add a lot of diversity to the sound of Beecher. These clean vocals should also attract a much bigger audience. This band is a nice surprise and should get your attention because these talented guys have got a lot of potential. I should advice everybody to check out some songs of Beecher at www.mp3.com/beecher.

Paco

Beerzone - British Streetpunk CD
(Captain Oil)

"This 24 track collection of one of the UK's funniest and most entertaining live bands includes all of their previously USA only LP 'They Came They Saw They Conquered' and all of their three CD singles" I want to thank Captain Oil for sending me this release. This is namely the first time I ever heard of this band. And with their street punk in the vein of The Business and Peter & The Test-Tube Babies, they convinced me to seek for all their previous releases. More about this beer drinking music you will find on www.beerzone.net.

Carel Groenen

Belvedere - 'twas hell said former child CD
(Household Name Records)

This is already the third full-length release from these skate punks from Calgary, Canada, but this is the first time I ever heard of them. SHAME ON ME! This is by far most the best new hardcore/skate punk I heard in the last couple of years. I the vain of No Use For Name and Pennywise these Canadians are hard, fast, funny and great musicians. With at times a little hardcore and metal influences this album should become one of the greatest releases in this genre this year. So listen this one and when you are not satisfied after the twelve songs on this album just visit <http://www.belvederepunk.com>.

Carel Groenen

Belvedere / Downway - Hometown Advantage split CD
(Sessions Records)

It's not that easy to write punkrock songs that sound different from the majority of bands and keep a listeners attention. Two Canadian bands have given everything to keep me listening to their split release. Downway uses a wide variety of tempo changes and voices. Does anyone remember the Swedish band Baseball Annie? This is a more modern version of what they did before. They have the same epic built up of songs, which they can break down just as easily to a simple punkrock tune. That's what makes a band great in its own right. Belvedere has a hard task ahead getting to the same level, but they have succeeded. In a fucked up All fashion with great hardcore and metal influences (check the superb track "Paradise"), and Millencolin sounding vocals. I'm impressed by this new breed of Canadian bands.

Martijn Welzen

Between The Lines - Wake Up Call CD
(Funtime Records)

SHIT! This album from these guys from Antwerp (B) isn't called "Wake Up Call" for without a reason. Eleven hard hitting old school hardcore songs with NY style influences straight in your face. After one 7" EP and a split CD with Against The Grain this is the first full-length album from this band. With songs such as Faces, Broken Hearted and Heroes this is one hell of a debut. If you are not afraid of some honest, no bullshit hardcore then step out of your

dreams, this is your wake up call, this is life! For info check <http://users.pandora.be/thumbsdown/BTL> and see what these guys have to say.

Carel Groenen

Black Cross - Art Offensive CD
(Equal Vision Records)

For some reason Black Widows decided to shed skin and transform to Black Cross. For the music as such it doesn't matter, and the record this band has cranked out is pretty much essential. Why? It has By the Grace of God vocals, with International Noise Conspiracy rock n roll influences, a thick Nomeansno groove and an excellent DC hardcore edge. Superb lyrics, and the ability to touch your heart. Passion is just screaming of this disc by these new Louisville (USA) heroes. As heard more often these days, hardcore bands are trying to link melody and structure to utter chaos. Only few succeed, and Black Cross do so. Is it just me or are great records popping up everywhere around us again?

Martijn Welzen

Backdumb Creatures - Living Legends CD
(Stardumb Records)

The Backdumb Creatures are definitely party animals. From the partyforest of Cologne, Germany these "living legends" bring you 12 tracks of rock'n roll party music poured in a 70's dusty sleeve. The band consists of Heini Heartbraker, Though Timo, Nilz Nonchalant, Tommy Toilet and Leif Let's go, so just wet your chest and put on your dancing shoes, because these kings of swing rock all night long.

Joost van Ingen

Bleed into One - Words Can't Save Us Now MCD
(Dead Serious Records)

Hold on to your chair.... Bleed into One is blowing you out of your comfortable seat. All unnecessary extras have been removed by BIO to give a bare naked, and pretty volatile mix of (old) Strife, Cro Mags and some modern metalcore. Intensity is what this German band brings, whether it is the crowbar that opens this case of violence (a song called "Disguise") or "Dragdown" that can be found at the bottom of this well of relentless pummelling. It all makes sense, and I'm sure Bleed Into One will become one of the most talked about European hardcore bands if they keep on to things.

Martijn Welzen

Bon Voyage - The Right Amount CD
(Tooth & Nail Records)

This is really spacy music... Very sophisticated, but very slow for a tight-up-hxc-kid like me..! Perfect easy listening emo form perfect quality. Further on the album I notice some boredom and I think a computer drum kit, fading the tiny bit speed that was there completely away. The 8-page counting booklet adds more darkness to the album by containing 5 pages of complete black pages. As I said: Great easy listening/alternative album, but a bit slow for speed freaks.

Joost van Ingen

Born From Pain - Sands of Time CD
(Gangstyle Records)

Born From Pain has always been one of the coolest Dutch live bands around. Live that is, since their debut album "Reclaiming the Crown" and their split with Redline, had a rather poor sound quality. Might be for that reason it took this long for the band to come with their second album. Also the fact some members left and others has to become acquainted with BFP's deadly metalcore. So here it is "Sands of Time"... With the first few spins I had the idea the band was only about the fill every second with a maximum amount of riffs, but there's more than meets the ears on this one. The better sound has made it possible to give the monster riffs and metal drumming a place of their own, with Che's overwhelming vocals forcing their way to the front. And in the process making sure the result didn't get all blurry. For sure the whole album is constructed to mosh you and your mother down, in a way only Hatebreed would be able to do it, but the pure metal parts (Slayeresque solo in "Stainless") that are a living and breathing part of this Dutch outfit, show they have the strength to keep on growing and not get stuck in some simplistic bulldozer style like many before. New guitarist Karl has written a good deal of these songs and they all vent Rob's lyrics in a perfect way. All bow to the masters of the Mosh.

Martijn Welzen

Boyssetfire - Tomorrow Come Today CD
(Wind Up Entertainment)

Boyssetfire went through a rather ugly divorce from Victory records. "After The Eulogy" got re-released by Wind Up followed by an ep to get people on their toes for the next album. "Tomorrow Come Today" has a really socialistic cover, which already shows the leftist political message the

band has. Beautiful lyrics and ditto music give a portrait of the world according to BSF.... Sometimes sad and complaining, sometimes aggressive and also optimistic, but always with an intelligent message, supported by intense musical power. Taking the melodies, and variation again a step further from "After the Eulogy". People that thought that "Eulogy" already had been a step away from the hardcore roots won't like this album, but to me the band has gained much more intensity. They use the instruments just like their poetic lyrics to make their ideas heard. Keeping their sincerity and avoiding lecturing. It's up to you to pick up the message or just listen to some superb music.

Martijn Welzen

Breaking Pangaea - Phoenix MCD
(Equal Vision Records)

When you're a musician you're really into this stuff. The two-headed couple Breaking Pangaea are musically really good artists. Combined with the intense voice bringing positive music it makes a perfect product. For fans of Taking Back Sunday, Fairweather and From Autumn to Ashes. "It goes on" shouts vocalist Fred Mascherino. And that is what we all hope for.

Joost van Ingen

Broilers - La Vida Loco E.P. CD
(DSS Records)

A mini album from one of Germany's greatest street punk bands. And again some great new songs. Not one song sounds like the other but there is always some Broilers sauce over it. And for pleasuring the fans, they put not only 5 new songs on this CD, but also some stuff from singles they released in 1996. And now some wise words from the DSS site "Words would never be able to describe what you music you find on this release - so better check it out today". Wanna know where to go, and get drunk with the Broilers check <http://www.broilers.de>.

Carel Groenen

Carnage - Dynamic Execution CD
(Music Is My Heroin)

Belgians metalcore band Spirit of Youth has always been one of my favourite bands within the Benelux, for the plain reason I really like their hard straightforward metal riffs, combined with melody and aggressive vocals. Carnage from Germany steps right up to the plate to give me that same feeling. From "Pistus" to "Grand Mal" they keep thing going. Still in that same style, but with enough variety to make me long for more. I totally love Metallica's "Ride the Lightning" and any band using that sort of song writing will be my friends. On the other hand Carnage is also a hardcore band and uses these influences to get the circle pits going. Cool!

Martijn Welzen

Cast From Eden - The Deafened Art of Bleeding Secrets Automated on Deadlines CD
(Catalyst Records)

Oh boy... where's the hardcore in this record? I'm not opposed to metal or huge metal chunks that get thrown in hardcore, but this sluggish bulldozer of a metal band gets on my nerves. Doomy, deathmetal music and grunts reminiscent of a Bloodlet, My Dying Bride mix have filled this record with an overkill of riffs. It is heavy enough and carries some great melodies, but overall this is just a below average thing which won't make any waves.

Martijn Welzen

Cataract - Great days of vengeance CD
(Lifeforce Records)

This is the second full-length of Cataract from Switzerland. Ferret Records released their first full-length 'Golem'. On their previous release, a mcd on Lifeforce they introduced their new permanent singer, which resulted in a steady line-up. This is the first full-length with the new singer. The vocals have got a high range, from low grunts to high screams, which adds a lot of variation to their songs. The first riffs of the opening song are metal all the way, which sets the standard for this entire full-length. This one is even more metal than their latest release but Cataract managed to maintain some core elements in their sound that remind me of All Out War. Lifeforce again delivers a high quality release with a lot of variation and a killer production. The layout is also well taken care of. You can expect these guys on tour with Uneath in Europe next months, so don't miss these two great bands on stage.

Paco

Chamberlain - Five Year Diary 2CD
(Ignition Records)

The title from this album explains a lot. "Five Year Diary" is a representation of 5 year Chamberlain including the best tracks of their discography. The gaps are filled up with live-

REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

tracks which makes this album quite interesting. The live-recordings are from good quality. This is for the unknown with Chamberlain a perfect try-out. Chamberlain's music is mainly quite slow pop rock emo. Fortunately I have to admit it is hard for me as a tight up hardcore kid to listen both cd's after each other
Joost van Ingen

Che Chapter 127 - Profit Prophet CD (G7welcomingcommittee)

Political - Activist - anti-Patriotic - Revolutionary - anti-Racist- feminist - Anarchist - anti-Capitalist - Vegetarian - Emotional - anti-War - Underground - anti-WTO/IMF/World bank - Powerful - Hardcore - Punk - Rock.nuff said.
Bart

Chimaira - The Impossibility of Reason CD (Roadrunner Records)

I never really understood what nu metal was all about. Couldn't understand why some simplistic rather industrial sounding music could be called metal in the first place. Now I know that with bands like Killswitch Engage and Chimaira there are also musicians that blend old school metal with the newer forms of metal without... and this is really important... losing their heart and go for the road of the quick dollar (or Euro if you like). Chimaira mixes the metallic foundation of Fear Factory and Machine Head with an almost black metal sounding singer. With the addition of some solo's and Alice In Chains like backing vocals (for some tracks that is) it has become a brutal metal record. I do mean just plain metal, since nu metal is a farce and I'm sure a band of this magnitude doesn't want to be up the same alley as all the copycats. As with all Roadrunner bands, a perfect bands for an outdoor festival.
Martijn Welzen

Circle - Vaudeville CD (Reflections Records)

"Can I Scream...?" Do you remember that line from one of the Refused songs? Just those three words rolled out of my mouth when hearing "Vaudeville" for the first time. It is only this adventures and original side Belgian's Circle share with the allmighty Swedes as they portrayed on their classic "Shape of Punk to Come" some years ago. Circle has taken hardcore a step further, a step further towards rock n roll, sometimes even with a sleazy stoner edge. They are shedding the skin of a skittish young band, or best kept secret as I called them when reviewing their previous release "The Day Elvis Shook His Ass". They have become a musical force to reckon with and they have found more ways to get superb musicianship out there. The groove, the message, the attitude...Refused, Facedown, Faith No More, Fugazi and Ac/Dc all rolled into one, without making a horrible mess out of these components. I'm choking in my words to get the feeling across which describes the emotions this record give me. I'm at a loss once again by so much beauty. Think about the best times you had, with family or friends at the most beautiful place you can imagine, the forest, a mountain top or at a local pub drinking a pint or two. Pretty cool right? You think nothing can top that? Okay, now run to your local record store, buy "Vaudeville" and put it on, on maximum volume; see... I told you so.
Martijn Welzen

Civil Defense - Civil Defense MCD (Striving for Togetherness)

A new SFT release! That came as a surprise since it all got really quiet around the label after the release of No Redeeming Value's "THC" some years ago. Nevertheless good to hear about them again, and with Civil Defense they have a band that can open many eyes again. Like a Kill Your Idols on speed, with some Floorpunch edges, this five piece blasts it's way through the things they dislike about modern

days HC scene, and their anger comes across genuine. They are about bringing it back to a pure form and the no nonsense and brutal songs on their first ep are a sign of good things to come.
Martijn Welzen

Closer than Kin - The Machineries of Breath CD (Punktuatation Records)

Seems like Strife has made quite an impact on this new band. Without letting the energy level go like Strife did on their third album this record rock one like it was an early "Victory Records" release. In 2003 you can't write a song, which at least has one modern edge to it. In this case of CLK I'd choose for Killswitch Engage meets Death By Stereo. Some unexpected twists make this album a nice addition to anyone's collection. For some reason I think several tracks are not that strong and sound like fillers (e.g. "The Uncertainty of Sanity" where the band tries to sound like Tool, well they don't!) and the drums don't really sound that great. The aggressive, old school style songs with some metal crunchy parts decide the flavour of this record. Sweet!
Martijn Welzen

Closet Monster - The killed radio star CD (Join the team player records)

These guys, 2 of them even used to play with Sum41 (!), seem to enjoy their aggression against society. Their blend of positive sing-a-long punk-rock and dreams of a new world order looks like a good mix for these young punks. They came together in 1997 and tried to keep their heads above water, doing it all DIY, and make music from the heart. Succeeded fully they recorded "The killed radio star" in their basement, and now they're ready to rock the big world back to the stone age!
Bart

Cockney Rejects - Out Of The Gutter CD (Captain Oi!)

Cockney Reject was not one of my favorite Oi! bands, but I must admit that they surprise me with these songs that are recorded in 2001 and 2002. The quality is great and they rock like hell on some songs. After that many years of playing and with so much experience, they proof once again that a man is never too old to learn. With the thirteen songs on this one, they are ready for another decade. Oi! Oi! Oi!
Carel Groenen

Cocknoose - White Trash Messiahs CD (Middle Class Pig Records)

This album is the re-release of Cocknoose second full length album. This re-release was necessary because they think they didn't get the appreciation they deserved in the last ten years. These guys from Kansas thought the world wasn't ready for their hate and afraid for their drinking problems :). Cocknoose is ready to hate the world. Will the world be ready for Cocknoose.... I know I am I am... or should they wait another ten years to spread their punk music into the world?
Carel Groenen

Coldstare - Demo CD (D.I.Y)

This demo CD from these guys from Antwerp (Belgium) contains 4 songs that should remind us, that there IS still a hardcore scene in Antwerp. Another goal for this band is, to try to capture the energy they spread on stage, on CD. I have never seen Coldstare live so I don't know if they have succeeded in doing that, but what I do know is, if they sound on stage just like the demo, I'm certainly going to visit one of their shows. The old school hardcore they play is influenced by bands such as Madball, Skarhead and Killing Time. For now Coldstare is working on new material and planning to go into the studio again. But they are looking for a label that will help. For info send a mail to michiels_philippe@hotmail.com.
Carel Groenen

Convict - Twentyfourseven CD (I Scream Records)

It is a long time ago since we've heard from these Belgian twin brothers. But they're back with this new refreshing album..! 11 brand new tracks including their hit "Passed Away" of which they shot a videoclip (available on their web-site) and their famous cover of Anti Nowhere League's "So What". The powerful, clear voice is still present at this record, the songs have a bit more of a rocking edge on it. The lyrics are more of a personal kind. Topics as friendship and loyalty, but also about losing a dearest.
Joost van Ingen

Copeland - Beneath Medicine Tree CD (The Milita Group)

This is quiet singalong emo fit to hit the big charts. The full album pleases my discontent in a way things are getting dreary and even a little boring. It is a great production, but I think it fits my parents more. When I listen to the album I feel a big distance between the band and me. In my opinion that is quite the opposite you want to reach with a band. But then again.. It still remains a great production. Check it out yourself if you can identify yourself with this band.
Joost van Ingen

Crash - Young Boy I Can Help You Through Your Exams CD (Firefly Recordings)

Aaron used to play in JR Ewing! That caught my attention JR Ewing being the best Norwegian band ever. Other that these there aren't any similarities, but Crash does have a right of being around on their own. Indie rock with damn nasty hooks, punkrock edges, a bit of pop and some unexpected turns. Not going strong over the entire track list of the record, but you might get caught humming or whistling to any of these songs without knowing. That's the strong point of this band; in secret they make their mix of styles creeping up on you and take possession of your body.
Martijn Welzen

Cream Abdul Babar / Kylesa SPLIT MCD (At a Loss Recordings)

Cream Abdul Babar is back after the impressing "The Catalyst to Ruins". Four tracks this time on a split with Kylesa. First thing I noticed on the new CAB songs is the mixture of chaos with slower parts to give heaviness more impact. The band as a whole has grown quite a lot, and makes these noisy hardcore much more diverse and rocking. Still the weird noises have a place in their music and give yet an extra twist to the great songs. Kylesa is new to me and they have contributed one sing called "The Curse of Lost Days" which has been divided in five different parts. Chapter one being an intro to the overwhelming wave of screamo. Just like CAB can touch a cold industrial nerve, Kylesa also heads straight for the heart... metallic and jazzy yet also warm and full of emotions. Still you need to have some patience to get to know the songs really well and get to grasp both bands contradictions. Both bands songs are full of traps. It's an adventure and I'm glad they took me on a ride. Confusing review? Heck, you listen to it and come up with something that makes sense.
Martijn Welzen

Comin' Correct / Cain / Onfall - The Hardcore Connection SPLIT CD (Real Deal Pressings)

NJ's Comin' Correct teams up with two Italian monsters of hard-hitting hardcore (Cain, from Milan and Onfall from Naples). Cain gets to show some pretty violent moves again in the first four tracks. Still totally in the Kickback / Arkangel style, but also taking it to an even darker place of the hardcore universe. Heavy grunting hardcore, with a ton of metal influences. I'd love to check a band like this out live once.. if possible in Milan. Rick Ta Life and Comin' Correct still bring songs with that typical barking sound of Rick's vocals. I'm not sure if these tracks on this split are exclusive, but if you know and like CC than just dig in. Good sound, and the joy of playing jumps right of the record. Onfall has to be some simplistic mixture of German band Copykill and Dutch band Born From Pain. As with bands like this the sound has to be crystal clear, that's not the case with Onfall and I guess they should have tried to get the same recording quality of Cain. As with the order of bands I'd have to say the further you head down to the end of the cd the lesser the bands. I still think Cain can get a few people on their feet if they plan on coming to Northern Europe.
Martijn Welzen

Count The Stars – Never be taken alive CD
(Victory Records)

This poppy new highschool punkrock clearly inspired by great bands as Jimmy Eat World, Cave In or The Smiths, breaks right through all borders underground music. Guided by the clear voice of frontman Chris Kasardjian Count the Stars adds itself to the mass of emopunkrock. But I can talk about the whiny lyrics, the standard though catchy guitar-riffs, but it still is a damn good record to listen to.. Every time I put it on, it stays on until the last tune played. Maybe it is this spring sun smiling towards the summer coming. Well produced by Dave Cobb who was also responsible for recordings of Billy Corgan and Sevendust.
Joost van Ingen

Damage Control – Can't Keep Us Down MCD
(Crucial Response Records)

I guess it is about time to recognize Crucial Response if taking care of all the cool Norwegian old school bands on its roster. Although, old school, it is maybe about time to let that label go too. No 80's band ever sounds this hard. It is hardcore in a way it once was, but still totally '03. DC makes me come up with the idea of a Gorilla Biscuits, Manliftingbanner mix with some slight Ensign influences. Sound pretty cool right? As with all Crucial Response releases it is fast, hard and uncompromising. And these eight tracks with their typical youth crew lyrics rock once again. Mentioning the labels name ought to be enough for you to start running for the nearest records shop.
Martijn Welzen

Darkest Hour – Hidden hands of a sadist nation CD
(Victory Records)

Besides Thursday and Atreyu this is for sure the best recent release on Victory. Darkest Hour strikes back with a perfect balanced new full length cd which will blow everything apart. The combination of melodic metallic riffs and high speed drums are the keyword for the specific sound of Darkest Hour. The vocals are hard and convincing all the time and they fit just perfect with the sound of Darkest Hour. This is the perfect combination of pure metal and hardcore for me. It's incredible how catchy the melodic riffs in their songs are. Sometimes they remind me a bit of bands like Cradle of Filth and Arch Enemy but then with more hardcore influenced vocals and without keyboards. This record will be in my top 5 of this year for sure! Get this right now and be

impressed by these great songs! If you're into melodic metal than you can not go wrong with this one. Don't hesitate but accelerate to get this baby as soon as possible!
Paco

Dashboard Confessional – MTV Unplugged CD / DVD
(Vagrant Records)

This record is just excellent if you are in for nice and relaxed music. Dashboard Confessional already has been all about one man, one guitar and some other instruments to support him, but all songs have been stripped down to their bare essentials even more. Chris Carrabba sings and plays guitar while pouring his heart out. It really sends a chill down my spine hearing the audience backing Chris up in a really special way. All of DC's best songs are put to the record in great sound and image, and just a bit of bass, drums and piano add something extra when needed, but still the heart of the matter is Chris vocals and excellent lyrics. For our convenience the label has also been nice enough to include a CD and DVD with the same track listing for maximum pleasure. Might not be hardcore, but it is emotion to the core.
Martijn Welzen

Daycare Swindlers – Heathen Radio CD
(Go Kart Records)

Sometimes it is a good thing for a band to switch from one label to another. Daycare Swindlers did and that is when I found out that this band from Washington DC already brought out their fourth album. And because I don't know their former releases I only can tell you that this one supposed to be their fastest album. And fast it is! The twelve songs are great old school hardcore punk beauties with sometimes a little bit of ska mixed in to it. So it was a good move to switch labels and let the world know that The Swindlers are fucking alive. Check out www.dcswindlers.com and ask them when they play at your neighborhood.
Carel Groenen

Day of Contempt – See Through the Lies CD
(Goodlife Recordings)

Pretty much simplistic metalcore with grunting vocals, using some "clean" singing every now and then to keep things going, but the deeper growling vocals of Ben get on my nerves. Even though the breakdowns, riffs and melodies

come out pretty cool at times it's still the rather boring vocals that make me stop playing this record. I hope the band will try to take this sound they have at some songs, not unlike Freya, to a higher level that way they will get my attention and I can play a cd to the end.
Martijn Welzen

Day Of The Dead – s/t 7"
Day Of The Dead – The Damage Done Split7"
(Goodwill Records)

The Day Of The Dead from Portugal brings you straight in your face oldschool youthcrew in the vein of Give Up The Ghost (former American Nightmare), Bane, Count Me Out. Fast and furious as this music should be drives these songs already to classics. On their split with The Damage Done they stand a strong representative of straight edge hardcore. Long time I heard bands playing music in this style. I'm glad there's still hope.
Joost van Ingen

Dead 50's – Drunk Perverted Semi Educated Rednecks CD
(Own Release)

"Standing on the Edge of Forever" has a mellow, sometimes even sad angle to the otherwise hyperactive punkrock n' roll. D50's third record "Drunk Perverted Semi Educated Rednecks" has a rougher edge to it, maybe even a bit more anger. It took me a bit longer to get into this record as easily as the ones that came before, but again this is punkrock the way I like it... good vocals, good melodies, variation all over, and some nasty hooks. Funny when needed and sad when asked for, and luckily a whole lot more than "one two... go" all the time. It's music about life, and I'm glad the short bus is ridin' again. I still don't understand why this band isn't big yet? Why they don't have a label? Why the sky is blue and why the water is wet? Please email me if you've got the answers.
Martijn Welzen

Deadline – Back for More... CD
(Captain Oil)

Main reason for getting interested in this band has got to be the fact that Nic and Ray of the London hardcore band Knuckledust take care of the bass and drum duties with Deadline. Deadline however is all about a friendly version of streetpunk. Friendly since it is really fast, almost on a punkrock level and never has a streetpunk band a singer



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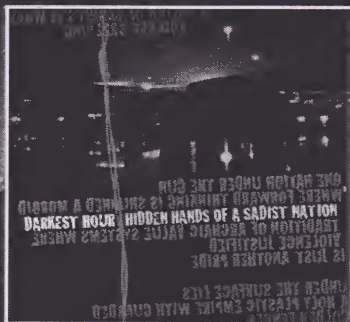
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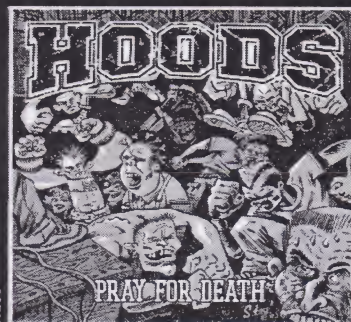
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"...innovative and polished, incorporating dark imagery, unpleasant yet necessary perspectives, and slamming, RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE-styled muscle." –SMUG MAGAZINE



DARKEST HOUR
Hidden Hands Of A Sadist Nation

"...the ferocity of BLACK METAL...pace of SPEED METAL and POWER METAL's sonorous patterns- undeniably extreme... an almost melodic brutality." Guest appearances by members of: AT THE GATES, THE HAUNTED, SOILWORK, WITCHERY and THE CROWN.
-SOD



HOODS
Pray For Death

"Their blistering mesh of new and old school hardcore brings to mind such bands as AGNOSTIC FRONT, CRO-MAGS, HATEBREED and STRIFE." –SECTION M

coming soon this summer new albums from **STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO**, **MINUS** and more...

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REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

with a voice like an angel. Liz, yes a girl, makes this band stand out among the masses of bald men screaming their lungs out. Not there's anything wrong with that, but this particular cd is more my taste. The lyrics are from the street, and carry extra weight thanks to the accent of Liz. Good production and song writing make it more than just your average three chord punk record. It's their second cd... about time I went out to get the first one. Nah, first push play again, and grab a beer.
Martijn Welzen

Dear Diary - Laughing Ends Like This CD (Bastardized Recordings)

Just like Thursday this band gives us a record, their first full length, to sink your teeth in. They pour those typical post hardcore way of writing songs, but still bring some tension to them to give them a Dear Diary face. Although I think this German band could use a much harder edge on some guitar parts (like they did use in "This Time" Awesome!) The singer sound a bit thin at some parts. An almost classical collection of varied and epical songs. Do you like Thursday, Waterdown, Face Tomorrow, Severance and all the other established or upcoming bands? Give this one a try.
Martijn Welzen

Death Before Disco / What Lies Within SPLIT CD (Goodlife Recordings)

Actually WLW is the first band on this disc and even though they totally kick ass, I prefer to get to Death Before Disco first. Despite the silly name, they have taken over the thrown from Circle of best kept secret, now that Circle will show the world what they are made of through Reflections. DBD can do exactly the same through Goodlife, but have to show their faces first in every smelly little club around Western Europe. Three great songs (totally unlike the once they have done on another split with Severance), give a good mixture of metalcore and emo, not unlike Poison the Well. Still all with a little twist of their own. What Lies Within has a rocking, almost punkrock edge to their music and dare to mix As Friends Rust with a screaming almost chaotic touch. Spoken vocals bark intense lyrics right at you and the four songs never know a dull moment. Goodlife has "dug" up two bands once again that have the ability to impress.
Martijn Welzen

Death By Stereo - Into the Valley of Death CD (Epitaph Records)

Is it too early to start talking about best record of the year, now that 2003 is only half way gone? Everything I like in music seems to return in DBS... hardcore, metal, aggression, variation. Funny stuff, but with a serious base and a message. Every single song is just superb, and singer Efron uses his clean voice about just as much as his manic screaming vocals, and both give what is needed at exactly the right time. Hard-hitting riffs are fighting for attention with terrific melodies. I could start a review about every single song, since they are all just to good to be true, but still the whole album is a masterpiece as a collective. ANY music fan in the world should get this one. It has been a mighty long time since a record just blew me away, and DBS third album leave their previous efforts miles behind. About time to get my "air guitar", that has been gathering dust since the 80's out of the closet and start jammin' to "the Valley". Rock on!
Martijn Welzen

Death of Glory - Your Voice ep MCD (Crucial Response Records)

Probably the rawest of bands to have ever put a cd out through CRR. Mixing old fashioned punk with hardcore of days gone by, with more spoken than sung lyrics (in an Awkward Thought way), about anything you would love to hate. "I Never Liked You", "I Hate You" and "Can't Accept Your Attitude" are some of the lyrical highlights of the ep.

Yeah, spread some hate and negativity, and put your positive hardcore in places where the sun doesn't shine. "FTW" is bound to become a modern punk classic. The black and white layout carries out this frustration too, and there is nothing old fashioned or fake about the bands anger. A killer record!
Martijn Welzen

Deluge / ForDireLifeSake split-CD (Skipworth Records)

It seems that Skipworth is heading to the top of European labels that releases passionate metallic music. This release is a direct proof of this. Two great bands have combined their love of music on this split release with a great result. Deluge from Holland starts with a piano intro. I was quit delighted to hear some new material of these guys because it has been suspiciously quiet around Deluge after their latest release two years ago but fortunately they're still around. The piano intro fades while the noisy guitars fade in. Deluge goes on in the same line as their last album but now the keyboard is not presented anymore. To my great surprise I don't miss it that much because these tracks are still very diverse and Deluge still have managed to maintain their own sound and even made their songs better with better worked out songs. The personal lyrics are based around the concept of 'Friendship falls with ego'. I only hope that they will release more songs next time, especially because one of the three songs is an instrumental one. I love their music and I can't wait to hear new songs. ForDireLifeSake also continue in the same line as their previous release so you can expect some more technical but also groundbreaking and intense music. Just like Deluge ForDireLifeSake also have got a broad and diverse sound with makes all the songs on this split worth the listen. One split with two original, intense, rocking hardcore bands, what do I want more? If Skipworth will go on releasing music with such a high quality they'll be one of the most important European labels within a short time. This release is not satisfying for people who only want to stick to music that's already done for about a thousand times before, this is refreshing and makes me looking forward to the next releases of Skipworth in the future.
Paco

Derita Sisters - The great Satan CD (Trash2001 Records)

Excuse me? Founded in 1992 and this record is their 18th album? That's quite an achievement by these guys from Los Angeles. "The Great Satan" their new record, has left me completely puzzled. They are from the USA but have a bit of "Deutsch punk" influences, they don't want politics but their cover and cd title suggests a strong political idea, they resemble the Ramones or so the bio says, but sound a lot like The Freeze. That's punk isn't it? Making people go nuts. Derita Sisters also have a streetpunk edge to is and go down all the way. "Heino Says" will probably be the best song of the records and is bound to hit #1 in countries like Liechtenstein. Oh, the "German input" comes by a couple of punks calling themselves "the Ruhrgebeat-offs". Excellent record all in all, and recorded yesterday according to the info.
Martijn Welzen

Discipline - Rejects of Society CD (Captain Oi!)

I was surprised when I received this album from one of my favorite bands of all time, but this is not a new album, but this is the respect where these thugs from Eindhoven (NL) are fighting for, for the last couple years, international acknowledgement. And what more acknowledgements then a compilation album on Captain Oi! can a streetcore band, that still exist, deserve. The only comment I want to give to Captain Oi! is : Why are their no songs of the first two

albums on this compilation? That is also Discipline and that is where they came from. But I will forgive them as soon as they starting to re-release all the Discipline albums including the first two :).
Carel Groenen

Dogwood - Seismic CD (Tooth & Nail Records)

This is punkrock..! Fast driven Dogwood spits another cd out. The familiar sound reminds me at NOFX and other of those. But when you pay more attention to the content of the album, the mixture of lyrics, music you will notice that this is a really sophisticated album. Utilizing poetic irony and proverbial wisdom vocalist Josh Kemble knows just how to pull the right strings.. Guitarist Danny Montoya eeehh.. too.. Rob Hann swirls the whole up with hard-hitting basslines. And drummer Andrew Montoya eeehh.. too. Well.. time to stop.. I think.. Good band. Nice artwork included.
Joost van Ingen

Dying Fetus - Stop at Nothing CD (Relapse Records)

I have the deepest respect for a band that can write the fastest and loudest metal ever. It's like having a bear growling in your ear with Dying Fetus. The light speed fast grind drum beats, death metal guitar riffs, which do have some Slayer influences. "Institutions of Deceit" has some very distinctive marks left by Slayer's "Payback". Dying Fetus is taking the best of your mind in its struggle to comprehend the overdose of impressions. Lyrics and attitude strongly lean toward a Napalm Death approach, but this band stands on it's on, and has been able to hold their ground. I have to admit; some rest is in order when the last blast of grind fades from the speakers.
Martijn Welzen

Eleventeen - In The Air CD (Sessions Records)

After their debut full-length "I ever wanted to say" on Frenetic Records Eleventeen has done a lot of growing up. The result is stunning. High energy passionate punk emo album containing hit-capacitive songs like "Black Rose" or the title song "In The Air" (which remind me on a good version of the dutch hit-band Kane; this is definitely a good alternative, definitely)
Joost van Ingen

Elision - Nephilim CD (Mad Mob / Core Tex Records)

Elision is from Germany and it surprised me that they're already existing for nine years because I've never heard of this band before. They play some decent metal orientated music. Over the total album you can say that they use a lot technical chaotic elements but you can surely listen to this record without getting lost in total chaos. Some riffs are used way too long in a row, which makes some songs sounding a bit too much the same. On the other hand this record fortunately also has some nice riffs and nice songs. Surf to www.elision.de and give these guys a chance.
Paco

Elliott - Song in the Air CD (Revelation Records)

"US Songs" and "False Cathedrals" had this unmistakably dreamy and epic Elliott sound, but still with a sharper edge to it. On "Song in the Air", the bands third album, this is one trip through the clouds after another, long spun out melodies, fragile, Beatlesque at time, or going towards a weird Radiohead direction, with an U2 pop approach. Some getting over a psychedelic tunes towards an almost jazzy improvisation. Still really well done, but the masses of the music fans (especially reading IK) are not going to be impressed. I have had to keep on to the record, since it is daring and always challenging me to put it on just one more time. Almost giving light in a dark room among all the other records, screaming for a review or a spin. The way "Believe" is built to a climax is almost a blue print of the songs. Piano, violin and cello give more impact, something that the band should definitely use the upcoming recordings. A bit to slow at times, for my taste, but always impressive.
Martijn Welzen

End Of Silence - Spread the Word EP (D.I.Y.)

This is the first release from these five guys from the Eindhoven (NL) area. On this EP you will find six songs that are a mixture of hardcore and punk. The band has two vocalists one of which played in a hardcore band some time ago, so he has a real hardcore voice, the other one is responsible for a more melodic kind of vocals that, (and this

is strictly my opinion) they should think about skipping, when they record their next record. For info, shows, pics and much more you can check their great website on www.endofsilence.tk.
Carel Groenen

Evolver - s/t CD (964 Records)

For some reason it took a long time till I started to write a review about this release. And I don't know why to be honest. Mostly when it takes a long time for me to write a review it's because I don't know what to write about a band because they suck bigtime and play crap that is hard to describe. But Evolver from Spain kicks ass. These guys play nice hardcore influenced metal. All the songs are very heavy with a lot of fast metal riffs. The vocals are high screams, but not annoying, and fits perfect to this music. Diversity is filling this entire album, from harmonic parts to fast chaotic parts. There's one thing on this record that is not changing and that's the heaviness and brutality of the sound of Evolver. The production of the songs is outstanding and the layout of the art is nice too. There's not much left to say about this release. I hope to hear more from these talented Spanish guys. Check www.964records.com for more info and be impressed!
Paco

Fear Factory - Hatefiles CD (Roadrunner Records)

In the early nineties Fear Factory shook the metal world with a record called "Soul of the New Machine", and even improved this massive achievement with the second record (and prototype for many copycats that call themselves nu metal), "Demanufacture". For me that's were the story of these guys end, because I always thought, "Obsolete", their third record, was just an abomination. Uninspired, flat and with songs that sounded alike. Nevertheless that same record shot the band up in the air, and they prolonged this "success" with "Digimortal". Just recently the band called it a day, and the members are currently concentrating on other projects. As some sort of farewell we get "Hatefiles", as the sticker on the jewelcase say; "Remixes, B-sides, and Rarities". Excellent hard to get stuff which makes me think about the first time the band played Dynamo open air (1993 if I remember well), and the ton of times I have seen them afterwards. It also makes me think more about their older stuff, except for some rather irritating remixes that sound like house music. Nice farewell to an innovating band that made a decade quite interesting.
Martijn Welzen

Fields of Hate - Blood & steel MCD (Spill the Blood Records)

It doesn't happen a lot of times that I receive some material from people from Finland but, as you can predict, this time it does happen. Fields of Hate is from Helsinki / Finland and has just released this debut-mcd on Spill the Blood. The production is kind of rough but that's only an addition to their rough sound. The intention of Fields of Hate was to make straight up hardcore with a strong metallic influence and a lot of moshparts similar to Hatebreed and All Out War and yeah baby, listening to this records I can only say that they succeeded. Just as the sound the lyrics are also filled with hate and aggression. If you're into beatdown / toughguy metallic hardcore than you'll like this new stuff for sure.
Paco

For The Fame/7TH Legion Split CD (Rooster Records)

One band from Holland (For The Fame) and one from Finland (7th Legion). For The Fame from Den Bosch (NL) with their first 4 songs from the studio. After seeing these guys a couple of times live on the stage I was curious how they sound on CD. And I must say that the band surprised me. The times that I have seen them live their music was powerful and aggressive but sometimes a bit untidy, but with these four song they proof to be a tight old school hardcore band with is not afraid to spill their guts and anger about life and the hardcore scene nowadays. Just listen to "Why Should I Ask You" and "We Are The Ones You Hate" and you know what I mean. 7th legion is a hardcore band from Lahti, Finland. They say they are formed to bring back the missing concept of fun in the Finnish hardcore scene as we know it. And they give you some plain old school hardcore straight from the heart. Don't nag just play and that is what they do. Be sure you check out www.110percent.tk and download some songs.
Carel Groenen.

Frenzal Rhomb - Sans Souci CD (Fat Wreck Chords)

Almost ten years in existence and their third full length album, Frenzal Rhomb from Australia are again ready to put a laugh in everybody's face in the punk rock world. With their punk in the vein of NOFX they are the biggest Australian punk rock band and they can match with the world's best bands. And when they can't win they will set their busses on fire :(check out the Less Than Jake song "Frenzal Rhomb Set My Bus on Fire") So when you like to laugh check out this album with 16 worlds funniest punk rock songs. When you have more than one penis go to www.frenzalrhomb.com.au.
Carel Groenen

Freya - As the Light Drains CD (Victory Records)

With Earth Crisis last actual studio album ("Slither") the band tried to incorporate more melody and clean singing to their hard hitting metalcore. To me personally it didn't come out right, and I thought it has to do with the vocal limitation of singer Karl. Earth Crisis broke up, but two of the band members Karl and Erick, started out Freya, more or less taking of where Earth Crisis ended with "Slither". More or less, since Freya could do what EC couldn't. This is such a great cd which uses mosh riffs, more technical metal parts, with Karl's typical barking vocals, but also almost emo sounding rock parts with clean vocals. The mix of ideas is balanced, and the incorporation of different styles succeeded to an extent it became more than just the sum of it's parts. And as for the singers limitations.... No way dude couldn't be more wrong about him. Another great hardcore band has entered the ring to show some muscles.
Martijn Welzen

From Life To Death - Tribunal of sins CD (Diehard Records)

Brutal is the easiest way to describe the sound of this band. The hard explosive metal riffs with a lot of beatdown parts are fucking heavy and sound great. There's only one thing that fucks the sound up bigtime and that's the vocals. I don't like to put someone down but it's very sad to hear this great music with a very monotonous vocalist. Only on song four he tries to do something else with his vocals but the boring vocals unfortunately dominate the sound of this entire full length. Image a low flat grunt without any emotion or any changes at all. But as I said before the song structures, drums and riffs sound very promising with a lot of diversity. It's so great so listen to the music aspect of this band and when I imagine another singer I can already see in my head the crowd getting wild into this great mayhem of brutality. It's a pity that the vocals ruin the sound bigtime. This could have been a blast... that's for sure.
Paco

From the Dying Sky - Towards last horizon MCD (Burning Season Records)

This label from Austria releases a lot lately. This one is a re-release from From the Dying Sky originally released on Dark sun rec. one year ago. Besides these 5 re-released songs this mcd features one new track, recorded for an animal right benefit compilation for Catalyst Records. It's obvious to me that these guys have a lot of quality, as well in their music as in their convictions. These Italian guys believe in a vegan and straight edge way of life. The music is full of technical metallic riffs and a lot of slow moshparts, hardcore influences are almost not hearable in their sound. The quality of the production is very nice and the songs sound diverse, it sounds a little bit like a more metallic variant of Point of No Return from Brasil. So all you metalheads know what to do, get this one and bang those heads.
Paco

Full Blown Chaos - s/t MCD (Filled With Hate Records)

The biography makes me anxious to hear this band because it creates some high expectations about this release. The style of music is best described as multi-dimensional Metal/HxC but tinged with sufficient originality to push the boundaries of both genres beyond any previous expectations. Unfortunately this music is not so refreshing as I expected. F.B.C. knows how to play some descent metalcore with lots of beatdown parts but that's all. The production is OK but not as overwhelming as this type of hxc should have. The biography also says 'in a music scene crowded with empty slogans and dissolved ideology FBC speaks about contemporary topics that apply to the real everyday life of the listener'. Then I'm also very curious what they sing about but unfortunately the lyrics are not presented in their artwork. To sum it up; this release is OK, the music sounds nice and I'm sure a lot of people will like it a lot but it just didn't satisfy my high expectations about this release.
Paco

Fury of Five - Telling it Like it is MCD (Inner Rage Records)

I already have this one somewhere.... On vinyl, but that one was released back in '95. So what's up with this re-release? Apparently there still is a demand for the first Fury of Five ep, and especially now it is available on cd for the first time. The three original tracks and a bonus track (from the 1995 compilation, "The Harder They Come, The Harder They Fall", are remastered and the whole thing comes in a fancy digit. Fury of Five has been one of the bands that formed the tough guy hardcore scene several years ago, and has released a couple of cd's through labels such as Gain Ground and Kingfisher (both now defunct). The band called it quits too some time ago, but this ep is all about getting to know the roots of the band and metalcore in general. As far the sound and production go, it has improved a bit, but after all the tracks are already eight years old by now.
Martijn Welzen

Gatsby's American Dream - Ribbons and Sugar CD (Rocketstar Recordings)

This political tainted band focuses itself around Orwell's Animal farm. Which resemblance is found in artwork as well in lyrics. Tracks like "Recondition, Reprogram, Reactivate" or "Work Lies Sex Love Fear Hate Friendship" reflect their thoughts on society nowadays. Musically Gatsby's American Dream reminds me mostly at Coheed and Cambria, but with a more rocking edge on it. Very interesting band with some retro influences and some more technical strokes musically.
Joost van Ingen

Generation 69 - Strength Thru Strength CD (DSS Records)

The Republic of Singapore is not the first country you think of when you talk about an Oi! band, but that is where they are from. This band exists since 1996, but due to some problems and changes in the band, they haven't been able to release an album sooner than last year, this album was released by Clockwork Records for the Malaysian territories, but the reaction from all over the world where above expectations so they found DSS willing to release the album for the rest of the world. Inspired by bands such as, The Last Resort and The Business these five guys deliver a terrific Oi! album with 14 songs. On <http://www.generation69.cjb.net> you will find more info about this band, but I am not sure if they are still alive because the last update is from February 2003.
Carel Groenen

Genocide Superstars - Superstar Destroyer CD (Relapse records)

The hardest, loudest, fastest punkrock band on the face of this world or any other planet in the galaxy come back to haunt you in your dreams. Like a gigantic black icbreaker they crack all the crystal clear musical ice that the music industry has made, breaking all the rules. Like a bunch of drunken rhino's on speed taking Motörhead songs to the extreme. No remorse, no regrets... there's only one way to go. Straightforward as fast as possible. Merciless, but tight as hell will these Swedes invade your house, and you'll love it. Mieszko Talarczyk of Nasum is also part of this unholy four piece, and that guy loves his share of Armageddon. Get the hateball rolling...
Martijn Welzen

GFK - In defence of politics CD (New Horizon Records)

Never heard of GFK before but I'm glad I've got right now some beautiful art of them in my hands, both on cd as the beautiful digipack artwork. Like the album title says you can expect some political lyrics. This band does a great job in making a statement with their lyrics. All the lyrics are accompanied by a very clear explanation of their political statements. You can not only see the dedication and strength of their ideas very clear in their lyrics but also in their music. The music is perfectly produced heavy music with some ingredients of the angry old Earth Crisis, the moshing metalcore of bands like Throwdown and the beautiful melodies of Shai Hulud. But the great thing on the music aspect is that this doesn't sounds like a simple blend of before mentioned comparisons but GFK goes beyond that and creates a great diverse own sound. This album is convincing enough to stand above the average metalcore releases nowadays. Great work. Get in touch through <http://www.gfkhardcore.com>.
Paco

Good Riddance - Bound by Ties of Blood and Affection CD (Fat Wreck Chords)

There aren't many punk (rock) bands around that have the ability to come up with an excellent record... or better yet a record that is, again, one step further as the ones before.

REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

Good Riddance are now more walking the path of Bad Religion during their "Against the Grain" era with a bit of Pennywise... hard and fast punkrock with great sing a longs and lyrics with a message. Vocalist Russ has a good voice to bring political charged messages across and can be recognized among thousands of others, probably due to the hardcore twist he always puts in his lyrics and vocals. Good Riddance are among the best in their genre and this particular releases is among the best in the bands collection of great records.
Martijn Welzen

Gurd - Encounter CD (Diehard Records)

This is one of the worst bandnames I've ever heard of. The sound of the bandname reminds me of a fart but the biography makes clear what it's about: when you read it backwards it says Drug, which is about the fact that these guys are addicted to the drug called music. These guys are from Switzerland and play heavy metal. Never heard of them before, which makes me surprised to read that this is already their sixth album. The songs remind me a bit of Pantera, not only instrumental but also the vocals. But the vocals sound not as energetic and enthusiastic as Phil Anselmo does and the songs are also a lot slower than the Pantera songs. Besides the award for worst band name I would like to give them also the award for the ugliest cd-cover with an Ufo on it. Besides the thirteen songs on this cd you can also check some multimedia material on this release. For the pure heavy metal fans this is maybe still something to check out but for me it's too slow and too reserved.
Paco

Hamartia - To play the part CD (Goodlife Recordings)

This is already the 89th release on Goodlife and after some moderate releases finally again a convincing release. The sad part of the whole story is that Hamartia is no longer. They split up and members created new bands like Bury Your Dead, Misery Signals and With Honor. This record is full of fast melodic but metallic riffs like Dead Blue Sky also used. The difference is that Hamartia uses way more variation in their songs by using heavy breakdowns and other hardcore related elements. Sad that this is their testament but maybe we have 3 new bands in exchange for the death of Hamartia, let's see what the future brings. Fans of Unearth and Dead Blue Sky should check out this record.
Paco

Hardflip - Bunkercore MCD (Spill the Blood Records)

These recordings are from December 2001 but after listening to this record for the first time I can understand why Spill the Blood released these old recordings. These very young guys from Mönchengladbach combine NYHC with some slower moshable riffs. You can hear that these guys are very young and that their sound can use some work but this is for sure a good release to start with. It wouldn't surprise me if Hardflip will conquer a lot of stages and keeping in mind the old date of these recordings I expect some new stuff released soon. Just keep an eye on this young band from Germany.
Paco

Hard Times - s/t MCD (D.I.Y.)

This release reminds me of the oldest releases of bands like No Innocent Victim and Brother's Keeper. The music has a strong old school hardcore sound with also some slight metallic influences. The production is not outstanding and the 'artwork' is very minimal but hey, this is just a demo to give people a little idea of what these guys sound like. So I

advice all of you to give this band a chance at <http://www.masshardtimes.com>, especially when you're into the s/t cd of No Innocent Victim.
Paco

Higgins++ Commercial brake

I keep wondering when the bass and drums hit in, but they don't. As a one man project Andy Higgins tries to show his talents, but with lousy lyrics and layout... it's not very original is it, Higgins??
Bart

Hiretsukan - 'Invasive!'/exotic CD (G7welcomingcommittee)

This record hurts my ears, goddamn it. But it's fantastic. Vocalist Michelle tears my heart, fills it with rage and makes it bleed. Still it doesn't get you down, on the contrary! Hiretsukan (I don't even know how to pronounce it...) got together in 1998, and recorded a 4 song demo in 1999. I never heard of them before, but I wish I had. Go get this record fast. You lousy piece of shit.
Bart

How It Ends - So shall it be CD (Thorp Records)

The amount of metal on this record is very high. How it Ends is from Philadelphia and is created in 2001. The songs are full of blasting breakdowns and metallic riffs but you can still hear hardcore influences. The layout is done by Orion Landau, who also did some Nile stuff, and looks very evil and dark. The songs are in one way very convincing, as the production is excellent and the sound is very heavy, but on the other hand the songs sound a lot the same. More diversity in the vocals should be a very welcome contribution to the variety of the songs.
Paco

If Hope Dies - Siege equipment for spiritual decline CD (Diehard Records)

This band from the USA reminds me a bit of Unearth. Just like Unearth If Hope Dies play pure metal with some hardcore influences instead of hardcore with metal influences. The enormous breakdowns and the hard vocals reveal their hardcore background but pure metal riffs dominate the sound. This doesn't surprise me at all because these guys come from the same hometown of Manowar, Auburn NY. The songs are diverse enough to make the whole album worth the buy. You like the word metal? Just get this baby and bang your head till it falls off.
Paco

Inside Me - La Ira de Los Vivos DEMO (I'm Distribution / Kilometrozero Records)

Metallic straightforward metalcore with barking vocals. There is not much more to say about this Spanish band. It is of course a demo and I should look past the poor production, but the sound is making it all a blur to me. They have their metalcore down and have some good Spanish lyrics (included in English too, for ignorant fools like me), but the variety needs to be expanded. Much has to do, I think, with the line up. Although being in existence since 96 the band has a steady line up since 2000, and seeing this as a starting point the band is on a right track. Interesting parts (read: total mosh parts) are to be found, but the overall sounds needs much more work. Get info through www.insidemehc.com
Martijn Welzen

Jaylan - Jaylan DEMO (Own Release)

For those who keep checking zines and sites know that Jaylan used to be called Devil Inside. Due to some legal hassle with Pentium (they use Intel Inside) about the name they had to change it. Sad on one hand, since the small man

looses again to the cooperate big shots, but Jaylan fits the band even better. They take off where they stopped with the "36 Karat" mcd (released on Alveran). Five tracks of intense, sometimes even sad rocking hardcore in the vein of Life of Agony and Cro Mags / White Devil with a stoner underground. All lyrics once again in German and with some Turkish / Oriental influences to show the background of the guys. Tracks like "Kaltes Herz" (= Cold Heart), "Brauchst Du Mich" (= Do you Need Me) and "Ohne Dich" (= Without You) seem to be about the pain and sorrow that has crossed the path of these guys. Even with all their tattoos and trying to look tough, friendship, love and family is what keeps them alive.
Martijn Welzen

Jeremy Camp - Stay CD (Bec Recordings)

I'm sure not many readers of Inside Knowledge are going to notice this release. Jeremy Camp is playing rock music or the most laid back sort. A man and his guitar. That is something we heard in another review too... Dashboard Confessional. But Camp's music sounds "bigger" with the addition of drums, piano and sometimes even violins. His voice comes quite close to Chad Kroeger (Nickelback), and the music breathes the atmosphere of Vanessa Carlton. I lost most of you here, and I lost myself in this music, which is meant as a compliment, but I totally miss the point for getting this release for a review in the first place.
Martijn Welzen

Jerry Built - Upstarts MCD (Firefly Recordings)

This release is filled with very nice poppy emo songs. The use of samples and a keyboard in their songs reminds me a bit of the Get Up Kids. Almost all the songs on this mcd are very diverse and I think this release is a nice start. It won't surprise me if Jerry Built will be big in a short period because this release makes it obvious that they have got a lot of potential. If you're into the Vagrant sound then I advice you to get this baby.
Paco

Kicked in the Head - Salita MCD (Ressurrection A.D. Records)

Party music doesn't have to be simplistic 3-chord punk rock, with kids with purple hair running up and down through a shitty video. Kicked in the Head make party music which actually is well written too, that's an awesome combination on this ep "Salita" (Italian word for "rise") Five new songs in their own mix of rock, punk and crossover bands are going further when compared with their first full length "Thick as Thieves" The melodies and the vocal support bass player Ryan gives to singer Gary works out perfectly. Is it just I or is this band destined to break through to the mainstream any day now? This band has become a punkrock version of Death By Stereo, and they are just as good. Included is a live video for "breakdown".
Martijn Welzen

Kissing Chaos - Enter With a Bullet MCD (Fueled By Ramen)

"Unique musical style"? Kissing Chaos is a rocking screamo band to the bone, but I wouldn't call their style unique. All five tracks are in the line of bands such as Taking Back Sunday, Thursday, As friends Rust or European bands like Face Tomorrow or even Refused (listen to the way the song "Enter with a Bullet" sets in) but the major difference has got to be that Kissing Chaos uses new wave influences from the likes of the Cure, with the vocals, that gives them a definite face of their own, but hardly enough to make it unique. Hailing from Austin, Texas the band has put a couple of great tracks on this cd, and it is good fun listening to them. We will get to hear a lot more from this band.
Martijn Welzen

Knockdown - The Game Is Ours CD (Rebellion Records)

Veldhoven (NL) is good ground for street rock&roll punk. First Discipline and now Knockdown with their first full length album. The band began to play 5 years back, but due to some line up changes they never had the time to release an album. Inspired by Discipline and The Bruisers this album with eleven songs (one cover, Blitzkrieg Bop from the Ramones) makes that the band comes down with one hell of a debut CD. So for every one who likes football, women, sex and at some time a good conversation; Check this one!! I guess that <http://www.streetrockroll.nl> is the place for more information but not the last time I visited this page.
Carel Groenen

Kombat - [Killer] MCD
(Wanted Recordings)

Wanted Recordings is a new label from Belgium and this mcd of Kombat is the first release on Wanted Recordings. Before these militant SXE guys from Limburg (Belgium) already released a split 7" with Cast in Fire and a full length. These five new songs have got a high amount of moshable riffs in the vein of Hatebreed and Born From Pain. With this mcd you can hear that Kombat developed their sound, compared to their last full length, which results in more diverse and better songs. Still I think that these guys are not yet at their top. I especially think that the vocals are not yet convincing enough. If they continue the progression in their sound in the recordings of future releases then I think they can conquer a lot of stages in Europe in the future.
Paco

Kutless - Kutless CD
(Tooth and Nail Records)

I'm not going to say singer Jon sounds like the vocalist of Tool, but the emotion and dark melodies are just as intense, with a background of an Alice in Chains / Nickelback / Creed rocking foundation and superb hair-raising melodies this record is made to get into your ears straight to your heart. Intense lyrics made a masterpiece complete. I could ramble on about the musicians, but Kutless is the living prove a band is more than just a sum of its parts. Everything seems to be correct, intense when asked for, but introvert when needed. Again a record that might get to the list of best records of this year. Oh, hardcore? Ehmm, well no hardcore influences this time, but that would spoil the fun anyway.
Martijn Welzen

Lagwagon - Blaze CD
(Fat Wreck Chords)

Since 1998 Lagwagon hasn't released a full length album. But the waiting is over, the Wagon is back! And at first I thought the album was a bit slow, but I kinda like it that way. Emo mixed with punk-rock, the way only Lagwagon can. 14 songs and an enhanced CD with Videos (who are not so great...) and access to a secret site where exclusive songs can be heard.
Bart

Length of Time - Antiworld CD
(I Scream Records)

For a long time this cd (their fourth already) has been promoted by Goodlife Recordings (they even made a ton of stickers!). Without any prior warning the record has been released through I Scream. Due to the Deviate / LOT connections it is understandable why I Scream would be an obvious choice if the band were to leave GLR, but the reason why remains a mystery. Continuing on their quest to tell the world it's a bad and hopeless place, Length of Time have taken a path down the melancholy road of Life of Agony and even more prominent Alice in Chains. Can you imagine... Layne and Jerry playing in a metalcore band? They aggression and violence of the older records have made place for sadness (portrayed by a deep, melodic voice) and desperation (given life with screaming, maniacal vocals). So with taking the heaviness out of the music the band still gains intensity. Dark, Darker, Length of Time.
Martijn Welzen

Let It Burn - Hello Good Friend 7"
(Coalition)

Yeah, yeah... my favourite old school rockers hit me hard again with a pink vinyl carrier of three great songs. Two made by their own hands, voices and instruments ("Hello Good Friend" and "On Angels Wings") and a David Bowie cover named "Hang On To Yourself". The layout is superb, the track rock likes there's not tomorrow.
Martijn Welzen

Leyton Buzzards - The Punk Collection CD
(Captain Oil)

This is a collection of more than twenty-five years of Leyton Buzzards. In all these years this is the second official full length of the band. On this album fifteen poppunk songs that represents their career. This is not the kind of punk I like, it's too soft and too slow. Some songs reminds me a little about the Ramones, but they never make it to that kind of level and speed. Somebody wanna trade this one?
Carel Groenen

The Lionheart Brothers - White Angel Black Apple CD
(Sally Forth Records)

There are always bands when you put their album on, you get busy, and after a while you think; "wow this rocks..! What band am I listening..??". You take a look on the cd and press the "stop" button and then again "play" which forces your cd-player brutally to start the album from the beginning. Then you notice what drew your attention a few minutes ago and made you stop with your current activities to subdue further investigation. The Lionheart Brothers are among these and knew to keep my attention for a long time. For weeks this album was my no 1 album in the car (while I was driving off course I have a cd-player in my house dth..). The retro-style noise-pop/rock is excellent music to relax and keep your head on the road. As their bio says: epic harmony focused on melodies.
Joost van Ingen

Living Sacrifice - Conceived In Fire CD
(Sold State Records)

These guys have been around for such a long time now (1989 was the first time I heard about them), and have always tried to get their metal music up to standards with the period a particular album got released. With the last record I heard ("Hammering Process") it all got a bit too much for me. It didn't sound natural and the band tried to force themselves into an almost nu-metal straight jacket. Still a nice album but the emotions seemed to be on second place. "Conceived in

Fire" is taking the band totally back to their own way of writing a good metal tune. In between Fear Factory (vocals of the first record), Machine Head (heavy pounding riffs and some solo's of the first two records) and Slayer (energy en speed of all their records). Living Sacrifice is onto the good, hard, aggressive and most important energetic songs. The year is still in its first month but one of the best metal records of 2003 that's for sure. I'd so like to see them playing live. Metalcore fans (Hatebreed, Heaven Shall Burn etc) should dig in too.
Martijn Welzen

Lopez - Lopez CD
(Infect Records)

Faster, faster, faster. There's no way punkrock could sound any faster and sleazier than Lopez' self-titled album. Lyrics are not included, but I bet they all deal about alcohol, cars, women and people they would rather see dead. Excellent release valve for the shit the members go through in everyday life and beware, they will surely drag you into the pit as well. Combining a faster GangGreen and a more aggressive Murphy's Law with something that could only resemble Dutch band Peter Pan, namely sleazy "speed rock". Not the melodies or intelligent song structures determine the quality here, it's this feeling of getting charged like a battery that's what counts. Lemmy of Motörhead will be proud of them!
Martijn Welzen

Lousy - The Babylon District CD
(Knock Out Records)

After their album "Best Wishes" the entire Oi! / Streetpunk world was waiting for the next album of these rockers from Germany. Why? Because this album blew you away with one of the hardest streetpunk you have ever heard. So the Difficult task for Lousy to make a better album or at least one as good as "Best Wishes". And they do it again from the beginning until the end for twelve songs long, you can't stand up from your couch due to the incredible hard sounds that comes out of your speakers. So for all the fans of for example, bonecrusher or blood for blood, this is an album you can't miss. More lousy news you find on www.lousy.de.
Carel Groenen

Luca Brasi - Fuck Your World MCD
(Mad Mob Records)

How often does it happen that a musician of a band is coming over to personally hand me a cd? Not that often I can assure you, but it gives a band one step ahead when it comes to the part of dedication. Luckily for Luca Brasi the record is cool too. Built on the ashes of Cleansweep, the Dutch / German formation is stepping up to the plate of metalcore in the vein of Hatebreed, and before you dismiss them of being mere copycats please listen more carefully, there are influences that crept into Luca Brasi's music without being noticed. Some NYHC to some "New Age Records" hardcore, and Berlin HC band Disrespect also came to mind. Singer Andreas didn't really fit in, to my opinion, with the more 90's new school sound of Cleansweep, but Luca Brasi is like a sonic tornado compared to the old band, and now he can use his power to convince the ignorant world. Luca Brasi is an aggressive metalcore band, but has a serious side to it that makes it all a lot more than brutal moshcore.... But don't make any mistakes they will knock you down anyway.
Martijn Welzen

Machine Head - Hellalive CD
(Roadrunner)

Machine Head is one of the few metalbands that came into the nineties with a sound I really liked. "Burn My Eyes" and "The More Things Change" are killer records that I still enjoy playing. With their third effort "The Burning Red" I lost track of the band. The hiphop influences didn't do the intense power of the band any justice. Apparently on stage the band has still kept the energy and monster riffs, but in 1997 I have seen them live the last time, so I didn't know about that. And 2003 is when this little surprise of a live album hits the fan. A cross section of their studio albums totally impressed me. No hiphop, no nu metal crap. Only hard-hitting bay area thrash the way I like it, totally in the old school Machine Head style. The album title, given to the band by a Dutch fan says it all. Recorded in London and Leipzig, and with Phil Demmel (who shared guitar duties with MH's Robb during their Vio-lence era) filling in on second guitar, the power of Machine Head came out right.
Martijn Welzen

Manda and the Marbles - More Seduction CD
(Go Kart Records)

12 songs of catchy punk n roll. A bit up the Ramones meets Teen Idols alley, but with more cool. Manda sounds a bit like Courtney of Hole, with the exception Manda is cool. This

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REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

whole band is cool, and that's what they tell us. Pop music with a punk attitude rooted in the 70's and 80's, but cooler in some way. This record is not about reinventing the wheel or anything, it's rock n roll and it's cool.
Martijn Welzen

Matchbook Romance - West for Wishing EP (Epitaph Records)

Matchbook Romance (once known as The Getaway) is my no 1 band for 2003. This intense music, compiled from screaming punkrock building up to several climaxes in every track, is redefining the current standard of excellent music. I am currently listening to this album and I am spontaneously forced into a so called "writers block". All I want is jump up (with the ugly consequence to bump my head to the 45 degree roof I'm under...) and scream (what will my neighbors think... "At last... He is gone insane..!") and violently smash all things around me (even that lovely vase my grandmother gave me for my eeeh... third birthday.. ah well she's got dozens of them at home). But hey, (welcome back on earth) it is such a good album... I think this band beats Thursday on Victory Records. Can't wait to see them live.
Joost van Ingen

Maypole - Burning in Water CD (Buttkick Records)

Finally there it is! The new Maypole album. I couldn't wait for this one. The impression they made after their first album with their eight songs on "Contradictions" was really impressive. So the expectation for this CD where very high. And "Burning in Water" was really worth to wait for, the standard they set themselves after their first release, is exceeded. This time with twelve songs, that are fucking great oldschool hardcore classics. Maypole is back to let the world know that they belong to the top bands in the Dutch (and for me, in the rest of the world) hardcore scene! You don't believe me? Check it out for yourself and try to get your hands on this one! More news from Maypole you will find on <http://www.maypolehardcore.com>.
Carel Groenen

Merauder - Bluetality CD (Century Media Records)

Debut "Master Killer" (1995) has been a masterpiece of modern sounding metalcore, hard, unfriendly, energetic and really cool. Follow up "Five Deadly Venoms" (1999) couldn't get to that same level. Still not sure if it was the record itself, or the scene not being interested in Merader anymore. "Bluetality" will probably suffer the same fate... getting more and more into Pantera's alley, this third record is better but with bands like Stampin' Ground, Hatebreed and even Killswitch Engage, we have learned about the power of the new millennium. Merader are stuck somewhat, and most songs down in mid-tempo sluggish riffs. Good record, but it will not get above the army of mediocre bands.
Martijn Welzen

Milhouis - It's hard to say goodbye in Punk Rock CD (Infect records)

From Seattle, and again this blows. You know, I tried. Honestly, I even listened to the music! Wait, let me explain. It's the cover. Again, a horrible drawing, and this time together with a sad sad title, and super stupid lyrics. I can't help it, you guys suck. Fuck off and go do something useful.
Bart

Mindfield - Be-Low CD (Lifeorce Records)

Lifeorce has never been about releasing a pure hardcore record. Metal influenced all the great bands, like Caliban and Heaven Shall Burn, more than just a fair share. What Mindfield does is also way up the alley of heavy metal, but taken from another perspective. More melody, keyboards, a bit of a gothic atmosphere and some influences drawn from countymen like Blind Guardian. For the most part it all made me think about Amorphis current sound (in short without the death grunts of the past). The record has something good going, but this young band isn't there yet. Towards the end of the record some songs seem to sound alike. And as it all really kicked ass in the beginning it goes like a candle in the wind in the end. Take off a few songs and this band can get really far.
Martijn Welzen

Minion - Pantera CD (Benihana Records)

Although the band started out in 1994 (as a cover band), it isn't that strange most of us ever got to hear from this band before. Since only a year later the whole project was put on hold since band member Andre and Sven started out with the better-known band Mörser. Minion only existed in the twilight of the Bremen hardcore scene, and after a three-year search for a suitable singer (named DC), the band got back on track in 2001. This five piece found a label with Benihana, and so now I'm holding a nice piece of German metalcore, with a lot of experiences brought into it by the different bands. This is totally rocking and grooving metal with harsh, rasping vocals. I could mention it has comparison with either Mörser or even Caliban, but on the same point is has influences by Bay Area thrash bands (Metallica - Kill Em All era... as in "Tropical Madness") or British metal bands (Judas Priest - Screaming for Vengeance era... as in "The Darkest Fiend") and some Swedish death metal. It is just a good mix of all the great bands that have influenced these five guys, and they made it their own.
Martijn Welzen

Misconduct - New Beginning MCD (Side by Side Records)

Only three new Misconduct tracks to keep us going for the upcoming record. Don't know if title track "New Beginning" tells us anything about a new start, but most important it sounds more positive than an album like "One Last Try". Still their own brand of Swedish old school comes across energetic, but is has something which could be described as H2O direction... of the NY band's first and best album that is. This friendly sound continues into the songs "Every Day" and a great Bob Marley cover (of his track "Iron Lion Zion"). I'm pretty psyched about the things going to happen about this band, since I love this ep, which is way to short to keep me happy for a long time.
Martijn Welzen

Misery Index - Overthrow CD (Fadefless Records)

All of you out there who are looking for a more old school approach to death metal should dig in now. Standing on the cross section where Bolt Thrower and Napalm Death will collide you will meet US band Misery Index. This band is no less than an all-star metal band, with former members of Dying Fetus, MOD, Fear of God, Pessimist and Suffocation they have their musical skills down. Classic death metal with some grind influences is what you get, and I'm feeling like the early nineties of metal are reviving. With five studio tracks, three live songs and two video's you should dig in if you call yourself metal. Some extra points of interest: Kevin Talley is still in the running of becoming the new Slayer drummer and the record includes a killer version of Terrorizer's "Dead Shall Rise".
Martijn Welzen

MOD - The Rebel You Love to Hate CD (Nuclear Blast Records)

This cover is so cool. Just like SOD stole Iron Maiden's "Number of the Beast" for the return of Sgt. D. MOD has chosen to use the logo of the Michael Schenker Groups as a way to spread the word of Billy Milano and his comrades Joe Affe and Danny Burkhardt. First of all it's the fun that hold this band together, not some deep thought-out plan to convince the world of either technical abilities or a deeper message. "Tongue in cheek" is the expression, and now sounding more like Mucky Pup during their "Act of Faith" era these guys make me laugh. Good mood music, not punkrock this time but rock and metal firmly based in the 80's. There's even a couple of seconds of a Kiss cover on here. Oh and song titles like "Rage Against the Mac Machine" and "Ass-Ghanistan" show the incorrectness of this three piece....
Martijn Welzen

Morning After - True drama CD (Full House Records)

These guys from Finland recorded with True Drama a solid record. They sound like a heavier version of Death Threat or Madball without sounding as a pure metalcore band. The production is good and the songs are all in the same line without surprising switches. This is a record were you know what to get if you heard just one of their songs. If you're into NYHC then you'll probably like this record.
Paco

NAOP (Noisy Act Of Protest) - Hard To Deny CD (Gangstyle Records)

The first time I put this CD in my player I didn't know the name of band. And DAMN!!!! I liked it already after a few seconds. This is the shit!!!! Raw and aggressive hardcore with old school punk influences, think about a mixture between Exploited and Barcode, but mixed into something unbelievable. Time to check out which band this is! HUH? NAOP? The guys from Den Haag(NL)? No, this must be another band. But no! It really are the same guys. This band is playing the stages in Holland for more then sixteen years now. And I did see them a couple of times live but they never made that impression as "Hard To Deny" does. With this kind of music kicking against everything, they think, is wrong in modern society, NAOP is ready for the next decennia. More about this unbelievable resurrection you find on <http://www.boozduhhaag.nl>.
Carel Groenen

Narziss - Hope dies... MCD (Circulation Records)

Narziss from Germany is back with a mcd on Circulation. I know these guys from the 4-way split, which is released about two / three years ago on Benihana Records, the Killing Fields. Two of the members have been replaced in the meantime. Their sound has also changed a bit, now they have a melodic metalcore influences with a similar sound as for instance Heaven Shall Burn but these guys also have got more mosh parts in their sound. Their lyrics changed from German to English what makes the lyrics a lot easier to understand. The melodies they use in their songs are really catchy and stick in your head for a while. Everybody who's into all the metalcore bands from Germany like HSB and Caliban will receive this band with open arms. Satisfaction guaranteed.
Paco

Nasum - Helvete CD (Relapse records)

The band Nasum started out playing straightforward grindcore. During the bands career they have captured and devoured all sorts of extreme music to make Nasum, still as extreme as it might be, interesting, varied and even melodic. Grind, typical Swedish deathmetal (in the likes of Unleashed, Dismember and mostly old Entombed), a bit of US thrash metal and some noises that come close to the sonic violence of Converge, Today is the Day or 18 Visions. Vocals that switch from sounding like Hans of the Belgian Liar to the deepest grunts of Napalm Death' Barney. "Helvete" means "Hell" in Swedish, and this trio are taking us down the highway to this horrid place.
Martijn Welzen

Never Face Defeat - Remember Your Heartbeat MCD (DRA Entertainment)

Pretty simplistic and straightforward metalcore, which resembles Kickback, Do Or Die, Merader and a ton of other bands. What is there to be said about it? You like it or you don't and seeing the band live might make a few heads move and a couple of kids go nuts and mosh things up. A sound of their own is definitely needed.
Martijn Welzen



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Never Surrender / Face the Enemy Split CD (Defiance Records)

When this cd hit my doormat I just thought this would be a split cd done by Defiance to give two unknown bands a way to make them heard to the audience. Might be the bandnames seem quite unfamiliar, but, oh man, the line up of both bands, surely rang a few bells and consists of some of the godfathers of NYC and DC hardcore! Never Surrender is a band formed around none less than Porcell (Shelter, Gorilla Biscuits, Judge, Youth of Today to mention the most important bands). And if you ever thought Porcell would kick off his shoes and sit back with a new band, you're in for the surprise of the century. On main vocals this time, Porcell is giving a metallic totally pissed off version of Judge. Four of his own songs and a Blitz cover of the track that gave this band it's name (and a cover that is better than Ryker's version on the HC to oil Tribute) isn't the "slow part" of "Day One" totally Slayer? A tour with Swedish Raised Fist would be like hardcore Armageddon. Who's going to put that train into motion.... Someone please!!! And Face the Enemy brings no less than two veterans back to the front. Ken Olden on guitar (Battery, Damnation A.D. and Better Than a Thousand to mention a few), and Tim McMahon on vocals (Mouthpiece and Hands Tied). More old school oriented than Never Surrender, the band kicks off with a totally Battery song (names "Broken Dreams") And it only gets better, since the following tracks give the band more of a sound of their own and the four tracks are in a totally 88 style, done by one of the best singer I have heard in a long time. Overall think a mix of Battery and Better Than a Thousand with a different singer. Essential split if you ask me, and the first real surprise of 2003.
Martijn Welzen

NoFx - Regaining Unconsciousness CDS (Fat Wreck Chords)

NoFx, what should I say? One of the biggest bands in the world without video's and interviews (at least for these last couple of years). Quite an achievement, but the records are still worth it. Not all releases have been on the level of a "Punk in Drublic" or my fav NoFx record "White Trash...". Now that they have a record out on Fat Wreck instead of Epitaph it seems the have found the energy to give us an old school punkrock record with a lot of cynism about the world and the US in particular. This is a four track ep to warm us all up for the record, which should be reviewed somewhere else in this zine. Three of these songs will appear on the album and "Hardcore 84" is only available on this one... great song... "Imagine a mix of NoFx and Kill You Idols. Oh... there's also a "War on Errorism" commercial on this record. Weid huh?
Martijn Welzen

Nofx - The war on errorism CD (Fat Wreck Chords)

Hal Even Nofx has gone political BIG-time. A band who, in the beginning, were not interested in globalisation and animal rights at all. At least, in the beginning. Nofx's gone, not only political, but also PC. And their critical tool Songs about the wrongs in the Punk-rock scene. And they don't try to be nice... off course there has to be a song about a fat woman, can't blame them really. But, I'm really positive about this album. The lyrics are great, the music's great, the lay-out's great. And in the beginning I was afraid that 'The war on errorism' was going to be a bore after a few times, but it's getting better and better. Oh, and they have an enhanced section on the CD, with a video-clip, a documentary called 'Unprecedented' (about the battle for the presidency in Florida and the undermining of democracy in America.
Bart

Norma Jean - Bless the martyr and kiss the child CD (Solid State Records)

Norma Jean blows everything away, both on stage as on record. Last year I've seen them live at the yearly Peacedog fest and these guys produced a mayhem of noise and their stage presentation can be described in one word: chaos. This made me very curious if they can also get this same atmosphere burned on disc and the answer is yes, they can. The result is a great full-length with 11 songs full of chaotic blasting music. What I like the most about Norma Jean is that they manage to create chaotic songs, which DO have a lot of diversity. There are too many bands playing this kind of stuff with songs that all sound the same but Norma Jean stands far above these bands. I would have liked to read their lyrics to see what these Christian guys have to tell but unfortunately they are not integrated in the beautiful artwork. Have you always stayed far away from chaotic bands because their boring constant sound? Just take this chance and check out this nice album of Norma Jean because they will prove you wrong!
Paco

No Turning Back - Revenge Is A Right CD (Gangstyle Records)

This is the first full-length album of No Turning Back, on the ever growing Gangstyle Records label. The first thing I noticed when playing this album is the different approach to the sound of the production. This is not a bad thing though! After a few times you'll totally appreciate the different sound that sets NTB apart from the rest of the recordings in this type of hardcore. When defining a style, think brutal and in your face, old-school orientated hardcore with some excellent beatdown parts. At times, these parts might be predictable, but then again, who cares if it's done right? If you're into bands like Madball, Bulldoze, and Sworn Enemy then don't hesitate to give this band a try!
Ivor Tellings

No Way Out - Destruction of Reality MCD (Years of Pain Records)

Bulgarian Hc is on the rise. It even seems that of the former Warsaw-pact countries Bulgaria has to honour of becoming a torchbearer. Musically the bands share only their country of origin, since they can range from old school to pure metalcore. No Way Out is a total moshcore band. Primitive metal riffs (reminding me of Gorefest and Autopsy), with hardcore breakdowns not unlike an Angelcrew, Merauder mix. The sound is rather good too, which is not always that easy. The lyrics aren't that good, but I'm happy to know the European HC scene is definitely expanding to the east.
Martijn Welzen

Nuclear Assault - Alive Again CD (Steamhammer)

They are back... the eighties metal heroes, with a slight political / social impact. Never to afraid to put some metal fingers on sore spots (prejudice, treads of war, pollution or religion). And they have released awesome albums called "Game Over", "Survive" and "Handle With Care". One this cd they put a show recorded on May 11th last year in the original line up, and many of their great songs made it to the disc, which has a good quality and more important atmosphere. "New Song", "Critical Mass", "Game Over" and their cult hit "Hang The Pope" are among other well-known tracks. This makes me really really anxious to what this year will bring for another legend which has come alive again. Also check the enhanced part with interview and live footage.
Martijn Welzen

Oil - Electric Tongue EP MCD (Coalition Records)

Just like Belgian band Circle can make me jump for joy, Dutch band Oil are almost on that same level. Like a bit more aggressive Fugazi, with the addition of International Noise Conspiracy rock they empty another clip of five musical bullets. Sometimes approaching the intense singing / speaking of Henry Rollins, Oil has created a sound unique in The Netherlands and many miles beyond the counties boundaries. "Definition Delta" has paved the way for something new, and "Electric Tongue" is brave enough to take it all further. It's only a five track ep, not nearly enough to quench my thirst for more Oil.
Martijn Welzen

Open Hand - The Dream CD (Trustkill Records)

When I always heart such a well produced (maybe over-produced) album I always wonder myself; How do they manage that live... I don't know, but last week a saw them in a small club nearby and they really showed me all the corners of the venue. I don't know how they do it, but Sean, Jeff, Justin and Alex showed me that the spirit/atmosphere/harmony on this excellent album can be produced without the technique of rewinding, overdubbing and resampling. The fact this band is able to perform their art and catch it on cd was reason enough to have a chat with them. See elsewhere in this magazine.. To be continued...
Joost van Ingen

Otherwise - Dark adapted eye CD (Firefly Recordings)

Good album. (With this short review I'd like to exite the reader to listen to this masterpiece on emotional, passionate and wel considered, balanced emo-music-ground. This album brought to you by Firefly recordings shows that making good music is still a privilege put away for bands who really have the ambition to make a good product. Otherwise knows perfectly to adapt your ears (??) to their sound which makes it a very pleasant album to listen to.)
Joost van Ingen

Papercut Homicide - From filth comes grace CD (Retribute Records)

When members of Red Sky, Fire @ Zero Gravity, Nemo and The Creature combined their musical skills Papercut Homicide was born. The result in sound is a mayhem of grind, death metal and hardcore with extremely fast riffs, a lot of tempo changes and a constant high amount of decibels. To me this is a bit too diverse and too extreme. Listening to this record for over 2 songs in a row makes my head explode and my fingers and toes itch. This is too much over the top for me. All of you into extreme grind and death metal will like this for sure but this is just too much for me.
Paco

Permanent Style / Punchline - Songs for The Unclean CD (Burnside Records)

Two Austrian bands teaming up on this split CD with ten songs. The style both bands play are almost the same, old school in the vein of Madball and OAC. And Permanent Style certainly let us know that we are not yet finished with the Austria hardcore scene. The recordings of Punchline on this album are not as good as PS but this is also a band you better not forget, because, with their more brutal beatdown hardcore, they will let hear more of themselves in the future. Check these bands on www.permanentstyle.at and www.punchline.at
Carel Groenen

Pistol Grip - Another Round CD (BYO Records)

The guys from Los Angeles are back with their next trick and it is called "Another Round", this means new opportunities. And when this album will not bring the success these guys deserve, I don't know what else they can do, great raw punk like The Clash, Bad Religion and the Ramones, toured with the worlds best bands like NOFX and AFI, so now it is time for Pistol Grip. Check this album with 13 songs and surprise yourself. So all you punks go to <http://www.pistol-grip.net> and pay some respect.
Carel Groenen

Poor Old Lu - The Waiting Room CD (Tooth & Nail Records)

The history of Poor Old Lu goes all the way back to sprong '90 when some highschool kids joined to do some serious recording. The band went trough a long path of demoing and recording which delivered 3 tapes and 9 albums (including a re-release of their album "star-studded-super-step") and the experience is dripping off their latest release on Tooth and Nail Records. The music is best to describe as easy listening emo songwriter music. Perfectly fit when you are tired of hardhitting moshing hard-core and want to spend some time with your girl/guy relax on a couch or so..
Joost van Ingen

Project 86 - Truthless Heroes CD (Tooth & Nail Records)

This band, formed in 1996, is a little bit difficult to describe. They don't have one particular style, their influences go from Sabbath and the Who to Morrissey and the Cure to Quicksand and Sick Of It All. Most of the songs on this album are bent to the classic rock. But relating to the goals of this bands this is not strange. They want to let the people think, not only about their music but also about their lyrics, the American culture, religion and social problems. The religious background of the band is not putting to much of a mark on the songs but they really make you think. If you want to brainstorm with Project 86, check out their site and visit their msg-board on www.project86.com.
Carel Groenen

Randy - Welfare Problems CD (Burning Hearts)

We'll, again there's a new sound coming from the heavy winds of Sweden. And it's rockin'! Randy is going make every album sound completely different than the earlier albums and so with "Welfare Problems" Randy creates a complete different sound than their album "Human Atom bombs". The balloons and flags are exchanged with beer bottles and spikes. A few songs to notice: 'Cheater', 'Bad, Bad, Bad' and 'Dirty Tricks'.
Bart

Rapid Notion - Next 2 Nothing MCD (Own Release)

I have been reading the bio probably four times, and virtually nothing made aware of something I was supposed to know. Only the name Downforce (for which Rapid Notion singer Rai sang before), gave a little light to the punk darkness. Best-kept secret definitely comes to mind. And emotional rocking mix that sometimes can be found in the line of At the Drive in sometimes in the line of Tool (or The Perfect Circle for that matter), and sometimes even a slight resem-

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blance to Dutch bands Face Tomorrow of the ballad like songs of Crivits. Although still in their demo phase the quality is clear as looking over icy plains of Antarctica on a sunny day. With a good production (especially the bass guitar sounds weak at moments) it could take over the European scene. And with the addition of hip hop beats and scratching it almost has an urban feeling to it.... And you have to believe me coming from Mijrecht, the Netherlands and have an urban feeling is quite an accomplishment. I wonder how these guys are doing their thing on stage.
Martijn Welzen

Ratos De Porão - Onisciente Coletive CD (Munster Records)

Brazil's legend RDP strikes back with their, new record. Only die-hard fans will have kept track of the immense amount of releases. Still blasting away, and the anger and concern with the world are real and sincere. Crossing over from metal to hardcore and back like a Portuguese speaking DRI (also (new) Exploited, Nailbomb and SOD come to mind). 15 bullets directed at the injustice in this world, and at the Brazilian society. Written in Portuguese, but you can feel the tension, and get an idea about the content even without speaking this language. The only song with English lyrics ("Fragments of Conquest") only proves that idea. And again sentences like "El Conflicto General" or "Holocausto Planeado" are easy to understand. Anger, fear, aggression and sheer musical power are universal languages. RDP balances on the edge of metal, hardcore, crust and grind, but this record is their best I have ever heard, and makes me think about good bands of the 80's.
Martijn Welzen

Raw Power - You are the Victim CD (Soulforce Records)

Twenty years ago our beloved punk / hardcore scene already had some amazing bands releasing some killer records. The fast, simplistic punk, the short songs with a lot of bass. Lyrics about how they hated police, politicians and multinationals. My personal fav. of this era has always been Dutch Pandemonium. Raw Power also comes really close to becoming a fav... even if this is my first visit to their musical heritage. The 14 tracks, from 1983 are accompanied by live footage from that same era in more recent interviews and a 2001 tour report. Yes you're reading this right; they still roam the street of Europe. Lärm, Reagan Youth, Black Flag etc are up the same musical alley. Be sure to check it out if you can. Roots man, nothing but roots.
Martijn Welzen

Razorblade - Spreading Fear (Rebellion Records)

And again a new Dutch Oi! band on Rebellion Records. Wouter (Squalor) started this band at the end of 2001. After a while he managed to find two band members! Joost from Knockdown and Ruud of Short Fused) to complete the band. Eleven songs with a touch of Condemned 84, and also a cover (Teenage Slag) of them. First time I listened to the album I was wondering if the voice of Wouter was natural, but after a couple of times I got used to it and he has a perfect Oi! sound in his voice. Best song on the album for me is the Dutch song Gehaat & Veracht about the Dutch media. So prepare your self up for "SIMPLE,REAL LIIFE, and IN YOUR FACE-MUSIC!!!"
Carel Groenen

Realmfall - Kaddish For an Unborn Poem 10" (Gasoline Poetry)

Realmfall is not a band but a collective as pointed out several times throughout the booklet and letter that came with this nice looking 10" record. While the five chaotic metal-core tracks blast away you can read the booklet which

talks about the political and sociological background of the band, much in a way Catharsis and Zegota have done. As beautiful artwork and a quest for saving the vinyl really go well with the background, Realmfall gives us just that. In the end it's also the music that counts and unfortunately the great ideas and layout cannot cover up the poor sound quality of these songs. You can learn from this record, but it's hard to mosh to.
Martijn Welzen

Red Reaction - s/t 7" (Coalition Records)

Thumbs up for the gold old-fashioned vinyl. Coalition is doing a good job in releasing some vinyl with rather unknown bands playing a decent set of pissed off music. Red Reaction from the USA is raw and pissed off. They play old school with a great aggressive vibe. This is how the old school has to be played, simple as hell, pissed off and raw. Somehow listening to this music reminds me of going back in time a few years. Get this release and enjoy these five great songs!
Paco

Rentokiller - Free From the Tyranny of Popular Taste DEMO (Own Release)

Rentokillers musical style is a perfect example of how to be free from the "tyranny of popular" taste. They have that part down really well. A bit of chaos, with Veil like vocals blend in with straightforward parts and some metallic edges. Not forgetting some moshy and breakdown part to be sure every live show with end in frenzy. As I am listening to this demo, I get the idea the band is an old school band at heart, but they loves so many different styles of music it has developed into an unstoppable Swedish hardcore machine, consuming everything in its way. "We live and Bleed for This" the accompanying letter states, that is what you can hear, music played with all their hearts. Labels please do get in touch with this band (through www.rentokiller.tk)
Martijn Welzen

Rentokiller - Anitdote DemoCD (Own Release)

It's the last self-released cd by Rentokiller as it seems they will release their debut cd on the Danish label Northpost in December. About time I might add, since this Swedish act has been roaming the streets on its own far too long. Six great and varied tracks that bring the best from Converge combined with Acme. Any self proclaimed screamo and metalcore fan can't afford to miss out on this promise. It's challenging, hard, straightforward at parts and surgically constructed at others. With a thicker sound in the guitars it might be we will get blown out of our seats in no time. Compared their previous demo "Free from the Tyranny of Popular Taste" this demo gives a wider range of influences and even more enjoyment for your ears.
Martijn Welzen

Rise Against - Revolutions per minute CD (Fat Wreck Chords)

This is my newly invented band. When I first heard them at the Groezrock-festival I was for one thing sure: I had to have that Album. Next week I drove to Den Bosch to check out their show with Mad Caddies. Damn. Completely sold out. Fortunately a friend of mine could get inside to get me this album. One week later I got it for reviewing. Man; I bought this album before I got it for reviewing; do I have to tell me how great it is...? Believe me; when you're into punkrock with a hardcore edge on it, this album is made for you.. By the way; I've got two.. Wanna trade..? :)
Joost van Ingen

Roll the Dice - Enemy Mine MCD (Frontline Records)

Fuck, fuck, fuck, damn. YEAH! This is hardcore with a capital H. Roll the Dice formerly none as Bonehead released their first mini CD on Frontline Records, and they do it with a loud BANG!!!! Six songs with a mix of old school, new school, punk and metal (ok I know that some of you don't like metal influences in hardcore, but they bring it really well) So this for the fans of power hardcore. Check www.rollthedice.be for more news about this band.
Carel Groenen

Running Like Thieves - The Approval of the Crowd MCD (Competition Records / Livewire Europe)

The singer of Bold and the guitar player and drummer of Supertouch have joined forces. That's a clash of titans isn't it? And you can hear the years of ups and downs in the music. Rock with a hardcore edge is what we get from this four piece. If Henry Rollins would join Social Distortion and start playing some Supertouch songs you might get something like this. It's weird I know, but that's what this world has come to. And I love these four tracks to be frank with you.
Martijn Welzen

Rydell - Always Remember Everything CD (Ignition Records)

This record is a collection of all earlier released work on several split 7" with Hot Water Music, Pale, Sunfactor, The Babies tree etc. of emo-rockers Rydell. This album gives a great view from the band throughout the years. A great collection for Rydell-fans who dislike the warm dusty scratchy sound of the vinyl guided by a certain hiss which makes the sound raw and more perspective. (Yes.. I am a vinyl fan..)
Joost van Ingen

Scars of Tomorrow - Design your fate CD (Thor Records)

With this second full length Scars of Tomorrow again creates songs in the vein of Hatebreed and Throwdown. Take the tremendous breakdowns and brutal mosh parts of Hatebreed and Throwdown and the combination of low screaming vocals with spoken vocals which reminds me also of Throwdown and you get the sound of Scars of Tomorrow. The excellent production is done by Beau Burchell of Open Hand. This record doesn't explore new ground on a music level but is powerful and convincing enough to check out if you're into above mentioned bands.
Paco

Screwballs-What's Next promo CD (DIY)

After a demo tape, two CD's, and a 7-inch this is the first release with these band members. This promo with 3 songs is released to prepare the audience for the full-length release this spring. Screwballs are Punk, Ska, Hardcore and a lot of positive energy in a great mix. Sometimes serious; songs about fascism, animalrights and more. But also the not so serious topics, for example songs about contact ads and dicks. Ok 3 songs are nice for a promo, but I need more! So let's wait for their new album. Curious? Order the demo at www.screwballs.net and learn more about this band from Amersfoort (NL).
Carel Groenen

Send More Paramedics - A Feast for the Fallen CD (In At the Deep End Records)

I have been playing this record over and over again. Who ever came up with a great and unexpected mix of Slayer and American Nightmare? And that's not all they have created an image that would fit a psycho band better. Fast and furious 80's metal (in the vein of Slayer's "Show No Mercy" or "Hell Awaits"), with total old school vocals, and guess performances by zombies, ghosts, psycho's and other creatures of the night. I reckon they have totally put the UK punk scene upside down, because face it; it actually is metalcore, but of a new breed. A better breed, and they ate brains to get this far. If you're not afraid, try it, and if you like it consult a doctor. Okay gotta go, I have to meet mine in an hour.
Martijn Welzen

Senseless - With care MCD (Wanted Recordings)

Senseless is already around for a couple of years and you can hear the years of experience back in the songs. The songs are very diverse, passionate and refreshing. They remind me a bit of a more chaotic and rougher version of As Friends Rust without being a simple copy. The aspect that disappoints me the most is the production of these songs. The vocals and instruments are not perfectly balanced out and the outcome of these recording sounds too far away. With a better production I know for sure that these guys

would impress even more people. Still this release sounds very refreshing and it's clear to say that Senseless is a welcome variation to the Belgium punk / hardcore scene. Paco

Seven Feet Four – Departure/Arrival CD
(Coalition Records)

The rough rock-organ reminds me at a raw version of the International Noise Conspiracy. I could be right.. both bands are from Sweden. The modern rock is clearly influenced by bands as At the drive-in - The Hives. Great recordings, great mastering makes it a very good album. Lyrics are quite abstract to add contrast with the very direct music to the album.
Joost van Ingen

Severance – Let's Talk About Us CD
(Genet Records)

This album from our southern neighbors bring you some rocking intense hard-core. Clearly inspired by their colleagues Circle, Hot Water Music but more tight-up and much more variety. You don't have to be a fortune teller to reckon that this band will be a success; This enhanced album contains a gift to see the future of this band. Be sure to check it out. They will appear on many festivals (leperfest, Funtime Fest) and touring Europe in autumn. I'm also seeing that when you visit a Severance show you get the shivers and have a hard time to get not involved with the passion, aggression and energy..
Damn.. and that on one album...
Joost van Ingen

Shatterhand – Bone Palace Ballet MCD
(Mythical Records)

Scottish punkrock band Shatterhand will definitely have a hard time getting attention on the European mainland. The music they put out with "Bone Palace Ballet" has just too many things in common with the German punkrock bands that came out through Lost and Found a couple of years ago, like Gigantor, So What or Not Available. I even thought of a German band when hearing these tunes for the first time. That can't be good. And even after a couple of spins that didn't improve much. I reckon these guys will enjoy playing their songs, but to me it is.... well boring.
Martijn Welzen

Shadow's Fall – The Art of Balance CD
(Century Media Records)

With a mix of Testaments best song parts and Arkangels vocals and aggression, you've already earned my respect, but with the addition of Slayer solo's and Kill Switch Engage modern metal parts, you have made a record bound to stay in my cd player for a long time. Shadow's Fall is a metal-band, but has something to it hardcore kids will just love, just like Hatebreed or Kill Switch Engage. The short beat-down parts, the energy, or just the teenage angst that's jumping of the disc. And still there's so much more, nice melody, fast and mid-tempo parts following one and other, and a cross section of what metal as a whole has brought to us during the last 15 years. Hey they shared stage with Pantera and Slayer in Japan, so I know I'm right. Screw balance, the scales are tipping in Shadow's Falls favour.
Martijn Welzen

Shai Hulud – That within blood ill-tempered CD
(Revelation Records)

A lot of people, including myself, were waiting for this record for a very long time but after a lot of set backs the new album of Shai Hulud is finally released. It took them about 5 years to release this new album after their legendary album "Hearts once nourished..." but listening to this new masterpiece I've to say that it was worth the wait for sure. There are no extreme changes in the sound of Shai Hulud. The great melodies are still the strong weapon of the unique sound of Shai Hulud. Every song sounds perfectly balanced out, just like their previous album. So, aside from some minimal differences, it's very obvious that this record isn't surprising at all. Shai Hulud just went further in the same line as where they stopped their previous album. But to be honest: I DON'T CARE AT ALL!!! This rocks from the first till the last tune. Everyone who likes their old work can pick up this record without hesitating. If you're not familiar with Shai Hulud but like music to be passionate, melodic, aggressive and inspiring then this is what you need. Surprising? Not Intense passionate rocking music? Yes! Can't wait to check them in Belgium on stage. And I just hope it won't took them such a long time to record a new record next time :-).
Paco

Shonben – 1999 CD
(Newest Industry)

This British band which was formed back in 1999 wanted to simplify their music and make it easier on the ear. And so

created a sound which can be related to the Dutch Raise Kain, Flatcat etc. The CD is a compilation of everything they recorded before they broke up a year later. It's a nice emo punk-rock album, not to write home about or anything. Just nice
Bart

Short Fused – forGET REALity MCD
(Dark Chronicle Records)

At the European Hardcore Party #9 I walked into the bass player, Tom, from this band and he handed over this album to me. Ok, it are only six songs and the total running time is not longer than twelve minutes, but the impression these guys from Den Bosch (NL) and Eindhoven (NL) have made with this mini CD is overwhelming. After six years the band finally got a steady line up. And they are playing hardcore in the way they like it, aggressive up-tempo hardcore. And they play it in their own style. I hope that the full-length album is on its way because this is what the hardcore scene is about. Do your own thing, develop your own sound and don't be a copycat. More about SF you will find on www.shortfused.tk.
Carel Groenen

Sick56 – Recipe For Disaster CD
(JSNTGM Records)

Ok, a band I never heard of, but with this sort of layout (it looks really great) the expectations were very high. Sick56 are from England and this is their first full length. They play punk in a way that can be best described as a mixture between The Exploited and The UK Subs. Sometimes heavy punk riffs but also some Oi! influences. The twelve song on this album are punk rock in the eighties style with a firm political stance and not that bad to listen to, but I think that going to a live gig (with a beer in my hand) gives me more satisfaction because on the album after a couple songs, it all sounds the same. Check out <http://www.sick56.org> for more information about these punks.
Carel Groenen

Silverstein – When Broken is easily fixed CD
(Victory Records)

Silverstein is one of those newly signed band of Victory Records. The almost familiar poppy sound is clearly present on this album. But in combination with the raw shouts which remind me at the voice of Atreyu. Cool thing to know is that the nme "Silverstein" is tributed to the writer Shel Silverstein. Fortunately she passed away a few months before the band was formed. All bandmembers grew up with the works of her. Nice album when you're into emorock with clean and once in a while heavy shouts.
Joost van Ingen

Since By Man – We Sing the Body Electric CD
(Revelation Records)

Without warning a Since By Man song can shift in between emotions as if the members al suffer from split personalities. Every single track has the same anger and frustration well enclosed in its fine melodies. But still, when a song like "In Threes" sets you can feel the tranquility too. SBM have taken the rocking element of chaotic hardcore (not unlike Converge) to a level where I think Boysetfire and Refused melodies and song constructions set in. This band has the power to take hardcore of the 21st century yet another step further, and without either turning to a metalband or a sassy indie pop band they have all directions covered.
Martijn Welzen

Sinai Beach – When Breath Escapes CD
(Facedown Records)

Facedown has an instinct of getting the best metalcore bands around on their roster (among other styles). After the great Falling Cycle, Sinai Beach from the sunny California also mixes brutal mosh with delicate metal melodies, but more so than the band mentioned before Sinai Beach is aggressive when the vocals are concerned, much in a Hatebreed style but with deeper, almost desperate sounding vocals. There are more surprises to be expected. Listen to "True / False" when the emo sounding vocals kick in. And the next track "Humanity" brings once again total madness, even with Converge edges. These are just examples since every song has it's own character. Moshcore or tough guy hardcore often lacks originality, not this time Sinai Beach gives a certain dept to the songs. Especially these two vocals styles appeal to me. It's delicate and lethal at the same time.
Martijn Welzen

Skunk Allstars – Bleeding Hearts and Smiling Faces CD
(Wolverine Records)

"This is not just another empty cry, begging you conform to their rebellion, and it's certainly not insincere drivel. These

are real people making real music and having fun together. The aim is to inspire hope, not apathy or pessimism and create unity within the whole world, instead of labeling a certain scene as better than the rest. There is no room for segregation and elitism in music, much less in life." Ok, that's a lot of words to tell that on this album thirteen great punk hardcore ska songs are presented, but ok, you can probably see it in different ways. This German band certainly deserves a place on the international stages with this album, but after a couple of times listening I started to miss something, but I couldn't figure out what it was. Finally after visiting <http://www.weedsoldiers.com> it became all clear to me :-), and indeed, with a big joint, this album sounds even better.

Carel Groenen

Slapshot – Greatest Hits, Slashes and Crosschecks LP
(Street Justice Records)

After its initial cd release on Kingfisher, this "best of" record now came out in a special edition through Street Justice. Clear vinyl, different layout and most interesting all the lyrics. So we can sing a long with "Firewalker", "Step on it", "No Time Left", "No Friend of Mine" etc. 22 great Slapshot tracks. Did I mention the word essential? Yeah it ought to be, but only 500 are made of this jewel of a hardcore record, so hurry like there's not tomorrow. If you also have the cd, check the differences in song titles... on the vinyl version they are correct. This is one for the collectors!
Martijn Welzen

Slipfire – Broken Pictures CD
(Music Is My Heroin)

Gorilla Biscuits and Ignite have influenced this young German band, but for some reason they don't mention Good Riddance as an influence too. Don't know why because one of the two singers definitely reminds me of Russ of Good Riddance. And the Ignite like melodic vocals versus the harsh hardcore punk vocals give this band its own niche in the overcrowded hardcore scene. It is rocking (you might say a bit of AC/DC like, with grooving punk parts), and makes it an attractive festival band. And as important as partying might look the content of the lyrics have an intelligent and deeper meaning. It really is a band with potential, and not afraid to walk a different path that few dare to follow these days.
Martijn Welzen

Slowreader – s/t CD
(Fueled By Ramen)

Ever had the feeling that you wake up but think you're still sleeping...?? This is pure songwriting. I can't cope with this: yawn. Deriving from the ashes of well famed Texas rockers The Impossibles this side project between two members emerged. Rory Philips and Gabe Hascall resulted in Slowreader. 11 tracks of acoustic guitar and emotional songs shiver your spine. Good album, good production and very clean.
Joost van Ingen

Somehow Hollow – Busted Wings & Busted Halos CD
(Victory Records)

This is so weird... the story of Somehow Hollow and Grade are so linked it's almost as if they are Siamese twins or something. It's not for a review to tell everything (but you could check www.somehowhollow.com for that). More important to know is Grade is gone and SH is taking over the Canadian banner of melodic hardcore. "Busted Wings" is a nice record and all, but just like Grade it's not going to do any damage like former Victory bands Boysetfire and Thursday. I miss the "shiver down my spine" effect that is important for bands like this. Nice record, but work needs to be done.
Martijn Welzen

Spider Crew – A Menace To Society CD
(I Scream Records)

Yes there they are again, straight from Vienna. After their first EP "You Better recognize" and a lot of live gigs Spider Crew became one of the leading bands in the Eurocore scene. This because of their hard and raw hardcore and their excellent live performances. On "Menace To Society" (their first Full Length) it is time for the crew from Austria to proof that they can still do it, after two years. Who doubted they couldn't do it? You were wrong!!!! This album is a bomb, twelve songs long. More about this explosive quartet check <http://www.spidercrew.at>.
Carel Groenen

Squalor – The New Majority MCD
(Rebellion Records)

The thugs from Den Bosch(NL) are back with their third official release and this is just like the first one a mini album. Okay, I'm thinking it is a shame, that after such a progress,

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in the last three years of their six years existence, they don't come with a full length. But on the other hand, why wait when you just have recorded five great songs. Squalor is hard, aggressive and sounds more mature then ever. Later this year the sixth song they recorded will appear on a compilation album called "Brabantia Nostra" which will also be released on Rebellion Records. For more streetcore news visit <http://squalor.mypage.org>
Carel Groenen

Star Strangled Basterds - Whose War Is It? CD (Bad Dog Records)

Star Strangled Basterds are formed by former members of D.R.I. and Battalion Of Saints and this is something you can hear back in their music, they have a lot of experience. The music they play is punk rock in the vein of Exploited, Discharge and GBH. So, fast punk back to the basics. On this debut album you will find 13 songs that are released for the first time in Europe. This is surely a band I hope to see live soon. Questions? Mail to: starstrangled@aol.com
Carel Groenen

Steve Caballero - Bandology vol. 1 CD (Sessions Records)

I have never heard about Steve Caballero before, but that's probably because I am not in to skating that much. But it seems that he is one of most legendary skater's of the last twenty years. In these twenty years he did not only skate but also find the time to play in four bands. Maybe some of you know one of the bands, I don't. The Faction, Odd Man Out, Shovelhead and Soda are the bands where Steve developed his musical talent. The music of the four bands is not that different, poppy punkrock with sometimes some influences from other directions such as reggae. More about Steve you will soon find on www.stevocaballero.com.
Carel Groenen

Stairland - Shapeless MCD (FUEL MUSIC)

Where the hell did I ever get the impression that Stairland would be an emo band? The band name maybe or the sober layout? Already after the first furious riff that came out of my stereo I knew emo would be the last this band was about. Although, aren't anger, frustration and desperation strong human emotion too? That is what Stairland is about, cold, hard and rather technical will they give the best mix of Dillenger Escape Plan and Neurosis possible. It carries the same chaotic signature that made the aforementioned bands important in their own right. This mcd is only a four-track appetizer of the things to come. This is definitely one talented band and new Belgian label Fuel has hit the bulls-eye too with their first release.
Martijn Welzen

Stairwell - The Sounds of Change CD (Hopeless Records)

Why do the guys of Stairwell look so grumpy on the back of this cd? Their music isn't tough or aggressive... Exactly the opposite I might add, really friendly emo, poppunk or indie pop or whatever labels you'd like to put on them. There's nothing new about this record, but still it sort of sticks, in a Dashboard Confessional / Samiam mix with a bit of Get Up Kids. If they would make a nice looking video they'd be big in no time. You could call that a compliment or an insult, but you have to make up your own mind on that assumption.
Martijn Welzen

SteelRulesDie - Nostalgia For Beginners CD (In At The Deep End Records)

Two ex-Anthem of the Century guys are in this band. I loved the way AotC played old school, but with a rougher punk approach. We can all rejoice, SteelRulesDie are doing just that on their debut cd. Like Avail, Good Riddance and Reach

The Sky working together... aggressive and almost barking vocals, but with a post hardcore foundation. Punkrock as punkrock is supposed to be, with a hardcore edge and some 7 Seconds melodies. Including a beautiful booklet designed by Sworn In singer Delaney Joe.
Martijn Welzen

Stomper 98 - Jetzt Erst Recht! CD (DSS Records)

After 3 years this is the second full length from this German Skinhead band. On this album with twelve, Skinhead Rock & Roll with ska influenced, songs, Stomper 98 let us know that they are still proud to be skinheads. In their songs they are fighting for freedom (Jetzt Erst Recht), arrogant behaviour (Arroganz) and they tell the world to not sit on their asses, but stand up for your rights and freedom and fight the system. This album is ok for the first six songs but after that the voice of the lead singer start to annoy me. More Skinhead pride you will find on <http://www.stomper98.de> (also in English).
Carel Groenen

Strapping Young Lad - SYL CD (Century Media)

"Chaos is glorious" according to singer / shouter Devin Townsend. Might be but a song like "Aftermath" is one of the tightest riff-filled metal tracks I have heard in a long time, and many others on this record are written just like that. Imagine, Fear Factory drums and riffs, Slayer guitar solos added to that, and even some Death or Morbid Angel song structures... Vocals which can ranch from Cradle of Filth to Ronnie James Dio, a bit of gothic and a truckload of aggression. I can hardly type out this review, while my hands are shaking with excitement. This is one hell of a record hardcore and metal fans alike can't afford to miss. It is original, and has the impact a record just needs to have now that the world has become a place of political instability once again. The band has been around since 1995 and with three other records they have built up quite a resume, but this record is the first that has everything I like in a metal record. Imagine this; ALL your metal albums are bound to gather dust once you have heard "SYL". The ultimate hybrid of styles.
Martijn Welzen

Striking Distance - The Bleeding Starts Here CD (Reflections Records)

As I once said in the review of their previous release "March to Your Grave" Striking Distance has his harder, maybe even more mature edge to it, which makes them more up to the task to knock you down, like Negative Approach did in the past and bands like Kill your Idols do today, but with a definite DC hardcore edge. This cd doesn't contain new songs but is the digital version of their out of print debut 7". Besides that is has some demo recording and a Minor Threat and Void cover. It is pure hardcore, fast and pissed. The way we all love it. Nice cover by the way!
Martijn Welzen

Struggling Time - Promo CD (D.I.Y.)

The last couple of years I get more and more interested in metalcore. Bands like Angelcrew, Hatebreed and Do or Die, are bands that I never thought I would like a couple of years ago. And now this promo from Struggling Time, five hard hitting metalcore songs, with an excellent production. This promo is for getting noticed by a label that will release an album from the guys from Belgium. And I don't think it will take long for these guys to find one. So Struggling Time did a good job for the metalcore scene, I am convinced that metalcore can rule! For info and for interested labels check <http://www.strugglingtime.be>
Carel Groenen

Sugarcult - Start Static CD / DVD

(Ultimatum Music / Epitaph Europe)

Funny... just had the new The Ataris playing on my stereo, when I put this one in and it is totally in the same line. After thinking about Bad Religion (during their "Against the Grain" era) for one split second, a sense of Samiam, Gameface and some simple pop tunes took over. This is a bit too sweet for me. Done really well, but for some reason it aches my teeth. I reckon it is just too much pop to consider it punkrock. Don't know why this isn't the case with The Ataris, they get to me, Sugarcult don't. A nice DVD includes three videos, a photo scrapbook, some footage live and home video and a bonus audio track named "Say I'm sorry".
Martijn Welzen

Sugar Daddie - Hell Or High Water CD (Thorp Records)

Sugar Daddie from Philadelphia decided to re-group in 2002 after a long period of inactivity. I am glad they did, because I never had heard of them, and with their new album "Hell Or High Water" they made a great impression on me for ten songs long. This CD contains something for everyone, hardcore, punk, metal or stoner, it doesn't matter, if you like one of these styles, you like Sugar Daddie. So don't get "stuck in the mud" but visit the "land of milk and honey" on <http://www.sugardaddie.net>.
Carel Groenen

Swingin' Utters - Dead Flowers, Bottles, Blue Grass and Bones CD (Fat Wreck Chords)

The Swingin' Utters began in the early 90's playing '77-era punk in the San Francisco punk scene. And this album is their (I believe) seventh full length. So there is experience enough in this band. OK the seventeen punk rock songs on this album are not bad but, they don't do anything you haven't heard before, and for me that is one of the standards for being a top class punk band, to have your own sound. So when you don't have such high standards like I do, buy this one and listen to some well played punk rock. For sounds, news and anything more you want to know, surf to <http://www.swinginutters.com>.
Carel Groenen

Terror - Lowest of the Low MCD (Bridge Nine Records)

Scott Vogel has to ring a bell; otherwise you have been playing with your toes for the last decade or so. Known for Buried Alive, he now takes care of the vocal duties for Terror. The sheer aggression had put themselves at the top of the new breed of hardcore bands. More old school than Hatebreed, but with the same attitude, reminding of Madball at times, but with the impact of an H-bomb, while Madball remains a mere fire cracker. Even compared to contemporary bands like Carry On (Todd Jones of CO is also in Terror!) and American Nightmare, they seem to have more anger to get out of their system. Many bands are trying to sound like this, but will never get to that point. Terror does it like it is as easy as opening your eyes in the morning. And the lyrics? Well, what do you expect, totally pissed off of course.

Vinyl nerds check Reflections Records for a 10".
Martijn Welzen

The Apers - The Buzz Electric CD (Stardumb Records)

And again a release from The Apers, one thing is clear, these guys don't like to sit on their asses and doing nothing. And with every release they do the band becomes better and better. On their earlier releases my comment was that the band sometimes sounded too much like the bands where they have got their inspiration. (The Ramones, the Undertones) On this new album with twelve hard-hitting punk rock songs they are developing more and more their own sound. Yes, I am finally convinced that this is one of the better punk rock bands in Europe. With almost 100 gigs a year you can't miss them but check www.the-apers.com to make sure you doesn't miss them.
Carel Groenen

The Ataris - So Long, Astoria CD (Columbia Records)

A punkrock band with a heart. That's what I would like to call the Ataris. They don't play this music because it is hip or because you might be able to use it for some skate feature or computer game, no it's in their heart and they simply have too. Samiam and to a lesser extent Dag Nasty and Lag Wagon put the punk factor in this band, while they are definitely flirting with mainstream rock and emo bands. I'd like to say Graig's Brother again, since they gave me a blue print

of what I'm trying to say here. With a really decent production (hey, they are on a major right), and beautiful booklet this is a punkrock band that has the ability to impress me. With a more than excellent Don Henley cover ("Boys of Summer") and two hidden tracks you'll get some extras too. Martijn Welzen

The Blue Bloods - The Blue Bloods (I Scream Records)

Not a new band but it is their first CD for these guys from Boston. When you're from Boston people are going to compare you with the great names from that city; Slapshot, Blood for Blood and DM. The only comparison that you can make is with the old material from DM. The first time I listened to this CD I thought it was just OK but I wasn't very impressed. Then somebody asked me to write a review about it and I listened to it a couple of times more. After doing that there was only one conclusion I could make for myself; this CD with 18 punk songs can't miss in your CD-collection when you're a fan of the genre of DM and the Bruisers. But also for fans of other categories of punk and hardcore (such as myself) this is a CD you must try out, just give it a chance. The songs are all full of power and are more than divers enough to keep your attention throughout the CD. The two covers (Bruce Springsteen / Negative Approach) are also nicely done and don't sound strange in combination with the rest of the songs. I can't wait to see them on tour together with Slapshot this summer.....
For more info check out; www.thebluebloods.net.
Theo van Grootveld

The Break - The Break CD (Make My Day Records)

Great, genius..! fast rocking emo-punkrock..! Party guaranteed..! At the moment I can't recall a band with this sound, but i.o'n guessing Foo Fighters meets Gameface (I don't know how to mix, but you have to admit that you get a quite particular sound); The break has so many influences guided by passion, energy and aggression that makes it hard to stand still on this one. Their bio states: "Songs like "Empty" and "Father, Mother, Convict" address the stagnation and misdirection of modern life all the while kicking dirt in your face and urging you onto the dance floor..!" which I can fully agree with..!
Joost van Ingen

The Butcher - Mass Destruction Manual CD (Gangstyle Records)

This is the third full length album from these guys from Holland. And after listening to this album and being to a couple of live shows, I am not surprised anymore that The Butcher is one of the fastest growing bands in the European hardcore scene. With the eighties hardcore-punk they play they seem to get more and more fans. On this album you will find 20 songs in almost 37 minutes. So the songs are fast, aggressive and short :). And much compliments for the artwork from Bartman, as always, it is great! So try to get your hands on this one, because it will be a shame when you miss out on it. For the latest info about this band check out their website at <http://www.the-butcher.nl>.
Carel Groenen

The Copperpot Journals - Plotting to Kill Your Friends CD (Firefly Recordings)

These typical "twinkling" guitars are something you hear more often these days. They have become an important part of the more "emo" tinted bands. TCJ are doing a great job making melodic, and yet extremely intense music. It's relaxed on one hand and overwhelming on the other. The four guys from England have put their heart into this one. Sometimes resembling Fugazi (their groove!) than switching to Elliott, and back again to Garrison or The Spirit that Guides Us, never completely copying anyone. The songs are extremely well written since they can make a sudden turn, either left or right, without de-railing the Copperpot Journals train. Only with the harder parts it sometimes seems the singer drowns in the chaos, which should have been taken care of in the mix.... Other than that, terrific!
Martijn Welzen

The Crack - Live in Atlanta CD (DSS Records)

Live Oil music from a band I haven't heard of before (this probably sound stupid, but that's just the way it is). On this album are thirteen live songs that you have to hear live and maybe be drunk :) to appreciate them. I am going to search for some more material of these guys to see what they sound like in the studio but if that is as hard as finding some info on the net about this band, it will probably take a while.
Carel Groenen

The Cramps - Friends Of Dope Island CD (Vengeance Records)

The Cramps are still alive? That's a surprise! The last time

I heard some thing about this band, would be more then ten years ago. Now they where never one of my favourite bands, but when time progressed my taste changed a bit and this new album, after five years (see, I missed the last five years before their sabbatical) is a rock and roll classic. The Cramps are back with a vengeance (maybe that explains the name of the record company, they started with maybe a foreseeing more then 25 years ago;)), thirteen dirty and sleazy rock songs produced by Poison Ivy and Lux Interior. Check the Internet for more info about The Cramps.
Carel Groenen

The Funeral - Ruled By None CD (Endwell Records)

If it would be possible to mix periods in time I'd have to say The Funeral took early 90's hardcore (New Age kind of bands) and mixed them with the early 21st century bands (mainly brutal metalcore). If it sticks, and "Ruled By None" proves that is does, you might have a totally fresh perception of hardcore. The nicest thing about The Funeral is that it has the same brutality of a Terror or a Hatebreed, but manages to put some weird hooks and rather technical sounding stuff in each song. "The Funeral are a hardcore band, plain and simple" their record label Endwell says... that doesn't do them justice. They are an AWESOME hardcore band, plain and simple.
Martijn Welzen

The Heartaches - "Lunacy & Devastation" CD (I Used To Fuck People Like You In Prison Records)

The first full length HEARTACHES album, produced by Kerry Martinez (U.S. Bombs), has hit the streets. This Belgium quintet of street rockers have already ready shared the stage with a number of legendary bands like Agnostic Front, The Distillers, US Bombs, and more. With asking Martinez for the production they made a great move (Just listen to One Man Army). So when you are ready for some serious street rock (never mind if you are a punk, a skin or what so ever), you are ready for this 13 songs counting album from the Heartaches. For tour dates and more info check www.theheartaches.com
Carel Groenen

The Heroines - Groupie CD (Wolverine Records)

As I said before, it is always nice to see that there are more and more girls into punk music. The Heroines contains two male and two female band members. One girl named E.V.E is the lead vocalist and the other girl (Galactica) is playing the guitar and does the backing vocals. The thirteen songs on "Groupie" are fast played punk rock and with E.V.E's voice they found a good mix between the early eighties punk and punkrock as it exists today. For more intergalactic news about these band from outer space surf to: www.the-heroines.com.
Carel Groenen

The Killerest Expression - Four Days That Shook the World CD (In At the Deep End Records)

Fat Mike of NoFX could have sung some of the songs on this record. TKE has nevertheless formed in 1994 (!) in the English city of Birmingham, and after a few spins of the record UK bands like Snuff or Southport seem to have injected their influences too. It's not a world shocking release, but the melodies and songs are well balanced. Within the UK the band already has had quite some support from bigger media, and it is quite understandable since catchy is really a good word for this records, but I really doubt if that would be enough to break an egg on the European mainland. As sound of their own is essential, and not yet to be found, and the vocals sound quite thin. Still I enjoyed the record and I know good things will cross the bands road soon.
Martijn Welzen

The Kyds Vs. Columbus - The Kyds Vs. Columbus DEMO (Own Release)

With a band name like this you just don't know what to expect, which would be lot easier if you call your band Death or anything. But all jokes aside it all makes this much more of an adventure. First thing I noticed was that this band has got three guitar players. That will explain the hard and overwhelming music this Arizona based band makes. And if there is one term this band uses in their bio which I can totally rely to it has got to be: INTENSE. Hardcore and metal are brought to you with great fury and aggression. Oh, man I didn't know what to expect when I popped this 4 song demo in my cd player, but if I would say that they are in between Converge and Acme, I still might miss out on describing their real power. The band seems to be working hard on exploring the uncharted territories both musical and lyrical (with a socio - political foundation). To my opinion this band will make them heard in the years to come. Formed in April 2002, the Kyds now seem to have a steady line up, and that is the time when they should start flirting

with different labels. Anyone with ears would be nuts not to give them a chance.
Martijn Welzen

The Meteors - Psychobilly CD (People Like You Records)

What do you need to say, when you're talking about the inventors of a unique style called Psychobilly? Having had hundreds of followers from all over the world throughout their 20 years of existence they still reign supreme. Naming the album "Psychobilly" might be a slap in the face to all the followers to show whom's the king, and that they have done it again. Their rock, surf, punk mixture and general madness are forged in hell and sings about death, perversion and all sorts of deviant behaviour of man. Still the music is done well, and there's nothing perverted about the professionalism. Although my spoiled HC ears could have used a harder production (which the instrumental track "Bloodbeat" seems to have).
Martijn Welzen

The Milwaukeees - This Is A Stickup CD (Boss Tuneage)

Almost crying brings Milwaukeees vocalist Dylan Clark one of the fines emo-core around..! One thing that immediately draws my attention are the very nice background stories behind each track. Great anecdotes and explanations of lyrics and music. They set hereby an example for each band. For the unknown they have included a small column called "Songs and Icebreakers - Rules for Song Leaders" Which brightly explain what you have to take in account when you consider to start writing music. The extensive booklet adds a whole new dimension to the album and forces you to listen in an other way to the music as you are used to. Without reading the booklet the music may sound a bit one sided, but it makes it fun to discover the thoughts of the whole album.
Joost van Ingen

The Natchez Shakers - Shaker Hymns no.2 CD (Thorp Records)

What's about Irish folk music, that people like so much? Bands from all over the world are playing Irish influenced music, think about Flogging Molly, Dropkick Murphys and The Porters. Also this band from Alabama and Tennessee has a heavy Irish influence in their music and they mix that with their Appalachian spirit. And it is no wonder that these nine people, who are having pleasure in making music, did already sell thousands of CD's without even having a label. So this will promise something for the future of the band, with this world wide release. And about the Irish music, I just think it is the most ideal party music you can find.
Carel Groenen

The Peepshows-Refuge For Degenerates CD Burning Heart Records

On this album from the Peepshows from Sweden you will find twelve rock songs. "Refuge For Degenerates" is an album that from the first chord to the last is striving for the essence of Rock, and succeeds picking it of. This probably is true for a lot of people but certainly not for me. This type of rock music is to easy listening for me. No speed, a lead vocalist with a wining voice. No sorry, this is rock I can't appreciate. But this is definitely the type of rock to score in the hitlists. For more info check <http://www.burningheart.com/peepshows>.
Carel Groenen

Therapy? - High Anxiety CD (Spitfire Records)

A Therapy? record that made it to Inside Knowledge... how's that for an oddity. If you look past the commercial success this band has had with songs like "Diane" you'll know the band has a high level to maintain concerning hard hitting rock n roll with a good dose of punk. On "Troublegum" they have reached their peak if you would ask for my personal taste. Don't know how far down the line "High Anxiety" is, in number of albums, but the sharp edge is back, and the sarcasm that has always accompanied the band is spit out by Andy Cairns the old fashioned way. We need him to be angry. Besides the harder edge the Therapy? rock statue still firmly stands, the melodies, the hooks, the sober drumming. Their music is once again stripped down to the bare necessities. The Irish four piece are out to kill again.
Martijn Welzen

The Red Chord - s/t CD (Reflections Records)

Extreme is written all over this cd. It surprises me that Reflections releases this music because it's so brutal and so extreme and not old school at all. But on the other hand it's not surprising because this cd is full of decent quality music. Mix the best and most extreme elements of grind, deathmetal and hardcore and you'll get this cd. All the songs are very diverse and filled with a massive

REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

amount of decibels. This is for sure one of the most extreme records released on a hardcore label ever. Get this record if you like elements of before mentioned genres because you'll love it, that's for sure.
Paco

The Riot Squad - Another Heartbreak EP MCD (Street Anthem Records)

This band from Belgium has been working hard last year, to create a name that everybody will remember. They are playing shows in Holland and Belgium constantly and they appeared on the Respect Your Roots album from I. Scream Records. With songs such as "Rose Tattoo Girl" and "Rock N' Roll's In Town" I don't think I have to tell you what they sound like, mix that with a punk attitude and you get The Riot Squad. On this mini album are six songs to let the world know they are coming. Wanna know what the fuck I am talking about?

Check <http://www.riotsquad.tk>
Carel Groenen

The Smoking Popes - "The Party's Over" + Tribute CD (Double Zero Records)

The Smoking Popes are a nineties punk rock band (that's what they call it) that has slipped my attention. After the first time I have listened to this CD I was glad I did. This is no punk rock!! No really it isn't!!! Ok it is rock but than more a kind of soft rock. After a couple of times trying to listen to this ten songs counting album again, I started to like it a little better. This for sure is something for Morrissey or The Smiths fans. On the Tribute album are thirteen bands covering a Smoking Popes song. Presented are for example: Bad Astronaut, Grade and The Ataris. For this type of rock I have to be in a really depressive mood, but ok when I am, one of these two albums, is the first album I will grab. More news about The Popes who smoke you find on www.smokingpopes.net.
Carel Groenen

The Spirit That Guides Us - 24 Winters (Sally Forth Records)

After a very successful period of lots of gigs and media attention last year, tsgu is back with a mcd. They produce the same unique and passionate music we're used to hear from them but now the screaming singer sometimes also uses grunts. That's a very welcome development because the high screams can get annoying after a while but this is perfect to bring some more variation in the screaming vocal elements in the sound of tsgu. The combination of repetitive noisy guitar elements and melodic parts creates a special unique sound. But I already see you thinking; there are already a lot of bands doing this trick. But that's not all. They also use beautiful clean vocals combined with heavy and high screaming and all these different elements just fit perfect in the song structures. Tsgu know how to create a very special ambience in their music and with this diverse mcd they prove to stay true to their own unique sound and continue writing beautiful arranged songs. There are only four songs on this mcd, of which the last one is an instrumental song, but if the small amount of songs on this release results in such a high quality of songs you won't hear me complain. Highly recommended.
Paco

The Toy Dolls - Anniversary Anthems CD (Captain Oi!)

Completing their re-issue campaign of the Toy Dolls albums this time the tenth and till now also their final studio album, on this re-release from Captain Oi! And what can go wrong with a release such like this? Nothing. The Toy Dolls are making their music with tremendous success for the last twenty years. But this will give the kids who never heard of this band the opportunity to learn more about Olga and the other members and see what they did best "Party till you Collapse" and follow in their footsteps. So "Livin la vida loca" and lets hope to hear more from the Dolls soon.
Carel Groenen

The Unknown - Radio lied to me CD (Boss Tuneage Records)

The fifth album of this USA pop-punk band. And, well it doesn't sound bad or anything. It just doesn't get to you. These guys have incredible potential, if they'd just drop their poppy sound. But some things in life aren't what you like them to be.
Bart

Through Silence - Two Words One Girl Cdep (Alaska Recordings)

Only two tracks... oh boy, I'll have to put it on repeat again and again. Through Silence bring a special blend of hardcore, emo and alternative rock. If the depth and epic proportions of a Boysefire, were to meet the strong emotional outbursts of a Kutless, combined with the radio friendly melodies of a Linkin'Park or Evanescence you'd have a legend in a nutshell. It still is a nutshell since two songs are only to wet our appetite, but if this bubble bursts they sky is the limit. Hopefully they won't make it all too smooth just for the benefit of getting big.
Martijn Welzen

To Hell And Back - Messed up / american taliban 7' (Coalition Records)

Just like the other Coalition release, the Red Reaction 7', this is again some raw produced music. But this time it's no pissed off hardcore but more rock influenced music with a very RAW twist. There are only two songs on this 7'. The music is very hard to describe, it didn't convince me as much as the pissed off 7' of Red Reaction but these songs still have got a lot of quality and are very original. If you're into something different then I advice you to check this out.
Paco

Toxpack - Die Andere Seite CD (DSS Records)

Streetcore/Oil from Berlin, Germany, the country with the only right language for this kind of music. I don't know what it is, but every time when I hear a band from Germany playing this kind of music in their own language, it gives it something more powerful. This band is on the same level such as Discipline (They play a cover of "Everywhere We Go") and the German band Loikaemie. So when you are not from Germany, but you are not afraid to discover a great band, you are obliged to buy this album. Beer patriots visit www.toxpack.de and get drunk, listening to real German Oi!
Carel Groenen

Trapped In Life - 12 Icons CD (Final Beatdown Records)

I have a lot of double thoughts about this new release on Final Beatdown Records. After being around for 6 years Trapped In Life recorded their first full length after two mcd's. You can expect some very tough music with a lot of metal influences and some high screaming vocals. Some parts sound very nice while others bore me to death. That's also the main problem I have with this release. Some parts sound OK but the total album just doesn't convince me. Besides this I really don't understand what you want to achieve with lyrics like 'cocks and cunts'. NOT my cup of tea.
Paco

Turbonegro - Scandinavian Leather CD (Burning Heart Records)

Yeah so shoot me... this is the first Turbonegro cd I could lay my greasy fingers on, but like George Bush said: "Make no mistake", I'll never let this record go. I have always thought Turbonegro would be too sleazy, to slow for me, but hell yeah; this is great up-tempo, almost happy hardrock. The Freeze meets Alice Cooper and they visit an AC/DC show together. Totally "not done" seventies rock is brought with such passion it become cool. This is rocking, stomping, headbanging stuff. Look at those pictures in the booklet...

they are totally what they play. Excellent and completely wrong.
Martijn Welzen

Two Minutes Hate - Strong and On CD (Thorp Records)

This band from Philadelphia has not been around long enough, to have reached all the hardcore kids around the world. And that's why this album has been released. Although the band is not around anymore, everyone deserves to hear, at least once, "Two Minutes Hate". For those of you who remember the time when bands like the Cro-mags and Agnostic Front were spreading their first messages, this band will certainly be appealing. So when you like raw, basic hardcore this CD with twelve songs (demo and 7" material), is one for your collection.
Carel Groenen

Two Ton Predator - Demon Dealer CD (Diehard Music)

I would never have guessed a heavy groove machine like Two Ton Predator would have the strength to get up to speed, but with some tracks (listen to "Pipeyard Killing"), the ever so slowly creeping predator lashes out with the speed of a stealth bomber. It gives them even more this deathmetal edge of fellow countrymen like Entombed and Unleashed. Personally I like fast music, so this new record is by far the best I have ever heard of them. Heaviness and speed can be combined and the monster grooves are still roaming the wide plains of the northern parts of Europe.
Martijn Welzen

Vanilla Muffins - The Drug is Football CD (Knock Out Records)

How true is this? Marx once said Religion is the drug to keep people sedated, well he's wrong football is the drug and millions all over the world are addicted. So are Vanilla Muffins... FC Basel is what gives them a kick. If you know your geography... Basel is in Switzerland. VM still play their own brand of Oil... Sugar Oil! And again this record is a keeper. Can you imagine; Cock Sparrer, Kiss, Ramones and Status Quo (whom are paid tribute to with a VM version of one of their songs) getting together for a friendly football match at the FC Basel stadium? All songs are up tempo and have this sing-a-long, good mood character. A great digi is what holds this nice disc, which included 2 videos.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Atticus... Dragging the Lake 2 CD (SideOneDummy Records)

The second low budget compilation, which is done in cooperation by the Sideonedummy label and Atticus Clothing. That's all nice and well of course, but what we really want to know is if the music is cool. Well, yeah, it is. From big punkrock bands like Blink 182, to superb HC acts like Bane... it's all on here 26 song of which 11 are unreleased (Dropkick Murphy's, Blink 182, H2O, Down By Law being the most interesting). Other bands are Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Over My Dead Body, Hot Water Music, Jets to Brazil and Transplants. A good way to start the festival season.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Fuck The World Split CD (Superhero Records)

On this split CD are four bands from 3 different countries, Finland, England and Germany. From Finland are Past Glories (with members from Down my Throat and Bold) and Outdown playing brutal hardcore since 2001. From England is Broken Bones (with members from Discharge), they are the longest existing band on this album, spreading their old school punk since 1983, and from Germany represents One Million Thoughts (started as a project in 1998 and became a band two years later) with some great new school hardcore. So here you have different styles from different countries, what more do you want? More info you can find on www.pastglories.cjb.net, www.broken-bones.co.uk and www.onemillionthoughts.de and www.superherorecords.com.
Carel Groenen

Various - Go Kart Vs. The Corporate Giant 3 CD (Go Kart Records)

Nice cover... This Go Kart logo cartoon is planting his fist right in the face of the corporate Hulk that is standing next to him. And it moves so you can keep repeating the movement over and over again. Before you run out to the shop to buy this compilation just for the cover, I have to mention a few bands on this record. The Control, Toxic Narcotic, GBH, The Varukers, Anti Flag, Leftover Crack and Star Strangled Bastards. 14 out of the 30 songs have been unreleased, and if the price is right too (which I'm not sure of), you need to get this sampler.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Lookout! Freakout Episode 3 CD (Lookout Records)

Number three already from the lookout samplers. No new track from the bands but songs from previous released records. So if you didn't buy the albums of some of these bands because you didn't know how they would sound, here is your chance to get acquainted. 20 songs from, for example, The Washdown, Bratmobile, Yesterdays Kids, Mr. T Experience, The Smugglers, American Steel and more, also on this CD video information from Pretty Girls Make Graves and The Pattern. The mix of music on this samplers exits out, 70, 80's punk to pop punk out this century. Ok; on this sampler you will not only find songs you like, but also some you'll dislike if that is a problem for you don't buy this one, on the other side you miss maybe the newest punk sensation when you don't. More info about the bands you find on <http://www.lookoutrecords.com>.
Carel Groenen

Various - Montreal hardcore compilation CD (Thorp Records)

As the title says this compilation is about the Montreal hardcore scene. A lot of metallic sounding hardcore bands share their music on this compilation. Only A Death For Every Sin rings a bell in my head, so this is a great release to get some new bands from this region. The bands vary from straight up metalcore to newschool hardcore and should please a lot of people into the harder kind of hardcore bands. The quality of most of the songs is not perfect but decent enough. Drown In Tears, who uses a lot more melody in the song on the compilation than the other bands, is my favorite band on this record.
Paco

Various - Pro Punkrock 2 2CD (Eastpak / Waste of Mind / 11PM)

It's always good to collect a couple of "bigger" bands and put them on a disc, or two, with some lesser known bands to give them a chance to get heard. Just a promotion tool, I guess. Pro Punker is just that. 53 bands handed out a track to the people who have compiled it. Not much more to be said about it actually. I could mention a couple of names, like; Slipfire, December Peals, Vandals, The Used, Rise Against Sugar Cult, Murphy's Law and Scorefor.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Punk-o-Rama Vol 1 DVD (Epitaph Records)

The "punk-o-rama" cd version is at its sixth volume already. The series has probably hooked half of the young punk kids in this world on Epitaph's music. In the age of de DVD Epitaph also put out this killer compilation. Instead of just putting some video's on a DVD the way Victory did with their comp, Epitaph used some of the technical abilities DVD can offer (like subtitles in different languages and special features.... "Inside Epitaph", interviews with people that shaped the label, employees and musicians alike, Bad Religion and Bouncing Souls live and a "The Making Of..." of Pennywise's "Fuck Authority" video). In a nice menu, some of the Epitaph monsters will guide you through songs of Rancid (3 of them), Bad Religion (two), Pennywise (2), Death By Stereo, Dropkick Murphy's (two) and a shipload of others. Also included Burning Heart bands International Noise Conspiracy, Division of Laura Lee and Millencolin. If the price is right at you local record shop, you have to get this.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Swing-A-Billy Chartbusters CD (Frankie Boy Records)

Through Frankie Boy and the "mother-label" Wolverine many cool, funny, weird cover cd's have been releases. Usually ska and punk bands covering famous pop songs, not so famous rock songs, cheese TV tunes etc. Now rock-a-billy and psycho bands have laid their greasy fingers on a couple of well-known rock, pop and punk songs.... Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Talking Heads, Nirvana, Radiohead, Queen, Santana are the biggest names, but also Social Distortion, Ramones and Misfits have been given one hell of a cool make over. As always not all tracks are as strong, but it came out really cool. Bands doing the covers are, among others: The Bricats, Taggy Tones, Lota Red, Jet Set Six, Buffalo Billys and The Quakes.
Martijn Welzen

Various - The European Poppunk Virus Vol. 2 CD (Stardumb Records)

Coollest part about this cd is that ALL, and I do mean ALL track are previously unreleased. So it is possible to give birth to a compilation without having to put bits and pieces together from any and all other releases that might be alive and kicking. Making many a compilation completely redundant, not this time. 28 European punk bands make a party for the second time (hence Vol.2). Travoltas, Retarded, 4teen Killers, Shoplifters, the Apers, Manges and many

more.... Spanky Darth Vaders and The Booba Fett Youth are close together giving this record a Star Wars twist. Just too bad Max Rebo Kids don't play punkrock. Check it out, a good way to know more about the Euro scene.
Martijn Welzen

Various - Thrash or Be Thrashed CD (Blackfish Records)

Only "cool" is the right word to use for this tribute to thrash metal. My favourite period in the history of music (to give a rough estimation 1983, with the release of Metallica's and Slayer's debut albums up to 1990, when deathmetal took over the world) has been put to the aluminium by 19 metal (core) and hardcore bands. Outstanding covers can be expected from Barcode, Unite, Stampin' Ground, Camun Rising, Phallicide, I Adapt and a couple more... what they have covered.... Megadeth, Metallica, Vio-lence, Slayer, Annihilator and Nuclear Assault. The cover has been done by none other than the mighty Ed Repka (known for Megadeth, Toxic and Evil Dead artwork), extensive liner notes by Tony Scaglione (he used to drum in Whiplash), Jim Durkin (from Dark Angel) and Blackfish top dog Ian Glasper (also bassplayer for Stampin' Ground). Cool little detail is the top forty of "important" thrashmetal records made up out of the top tens of the musicians that contributed to this records. Yeah... I own 32 of them. Metal up your ass!
Martijn Welzen

Various - Too Legit For The Pit CD (SPV)

Hardcore take on rap music, nothing new because in the past a lot of hardcore bands did already use raps in their lyrics, and visa versa rappers using hardcore music. And most times it turned out to be a good combination. On this compilation album 12 NY bands are covering famous rap artists. For example Stretch Arm Strong covering "Express Yourself" from N.W.A. or Skarhead playing "PSK! What Does It Mean?" from Schooly D. You also will find songs from Throwdown, E-Town Concrete, No Redeeming Social Value and others on this album. If you don't like the combination between rap and hardcore don't listen to this CD but when you like it....! This is one album you certainly must have for your collection.
Carel Groenen.

Various - Übersee Records sampler CD (Übersee Records)

It is midwinter when I'm writing this review, but I can feel the rays of sunlight coming out of the speakers while this comp makes it's warm spins. Übersee (which is German for "over-seas") has found all the obscure bands from South and Middle America (and California) that play a sunny mix of punk, ska and Latin styles. It is a party all along, and a great compilation to get to know all the bands that are coming up with a full length through Übersee Records. Mentioning names is important since you have to make sure to check them out... Karamelo Santo, Los Calzones, Almalafa, Futuro Incierto and a couple of others some bands had the privilege of delivering two songs. Where are my sunglasses?
Martijn Welzen

Various - Unpopular Disclose #1 - Welcome To The Loonybin CD (Unpopular Disclose Records)

A label sampler from a label from Germany, the only band on this sampler I knew where Pitfall. So this is a good opportunity to learn more about the German punk rock and hardcore scene, and there are few surprising bands on this sampler. I liked the songs of Venerea, Alien 101, Faint Stout and Slup but also all the other bands like Masons Arms, In Use and Freie Entfaltung are not bad. So thanks to Unpopular Disclose for this CD, I am going to score some albums from some of these bands. Label news you will find on <http://www.unpopulardisclose.here.de>.
Carel Groenen

Various - Victory Video Collection 2002 DVD (Victory Records)

With a regular compilation cd you only get to hear audio, and that makes the interpretation of a certain song up to the listener. Songs that have been put on video will have a different impact. Some songs might even improve, while others don't come out right or ruin the image the song had previously created in your head. That's the most interesting part of this Victory sampler DVD to my opinion. Atreyu, Snapcase and Waterdown were my fav's just checking the list of 14 video's on the back. After having listened and more important watched the DVD bands like Student Rick and Catch 22 made more of an impression. I'm probably too MTV infected and want music that has been put on a video to be more catchy and easy. Makes you think about the added value of a video to a track right? Nevertheless if you love hardcore bands and know the ones that are / were on Victory during the year 2002. This one could be for you....

Taking Back Sunday, and Thursday are on here twice and Grade, Bloodlet, River City Rebels, Voodoo Glow Skulls, and Reach the Sky are included too. Unfortunately no special features this time. I'm sure there would be space for that.
Martijn Welzen

Various - We're a Happy Family (Tribute to Ramones) CD (Columbia Records)

The untimely demise of both singer Joey Ramone and former Ramones guitar player Dee Dee Ramone, just called for a tribute. Rob Zombie wanted to sink his teeth into the matter, but it had to be like a tribute to end all tributes. I'm not sure if this is the ultimate Ramones tribute, but with Zombie designing the booklet, and Stephen King writing some liner notes. It sure as hell was a nice start. Nevertheless the reason for buying the records usually is the music. Great covers are: "Havana Affair" (by Red Hot Chili Peppers), "I Believe in Miracles" (Eddie Vedder with Zeke), "Beat on the Brat" (U2), "Do You Remember Rock n Roll Radio (Kiss), and the next best thing to the Ramones themselves The Offspring's impression of "I Wanna Be Sedated. Rob Zombie, The Pretenders and Marilyn Manson turned the song around, and made it their own. Also nice are Metallica, Green Day, Rancid and Garbage... towards the end the cd collapses like a cardboard house in the rain (with Tom Waits and Roony), but even that can't spoil the fun. My fav band tribute next to the Seven Seconds tribute on Reflections and the Dead Kennedies tribute on Alternative Tentacles.
Martijn Welzen

Vindicator - Back with Nothing to Lose CD (True Rebels Records)

Vindicator from Hamburg (DU) picks up the trail where Discipline decided to leave the path of Eurocore (with "Guilty as Charged") and to emphasise that they play a Discipline cover of "Goodbye". This band is all about hardcore the way they think it should be. With songs such as "Hardcore Police", "Searching For Unity and "Take Your Stand" you know what I am talking about. Fans of Only Attitude Counts, Spidercrew and Hard Resistance will like this one for sure. This is first release from True Rebels Records and if the can continue with this kind of quality I'm dying to wait for more releases! So get what you deserve and check out www.vindicator.de.
Carel Groenen

Volxsturm - Bi Uns Zu Hus CD (DSS Records)

Five bald guys from Germany playing Oi!. And the name is Volxsturm. This band has all the ingredients for a right wing band, BUT only for the people, which are too narrow minded. No these guys play Oi! For twelve years now and they know what they are talking about. Fast, Hard, ironic and provoking just like real Oi! is supposed to be. So let's enjoy life, not only the good times but also the bad times and listen to the 14 tracks on this CD about skinheads, beer, friendship and the things you see in life, every day. Check out <http://www.volxsturm.de> and learn from these skins.
Carel Groenen.

Warsawpack - Gross Domestic Product (G7Welcomingcommittee)

I don't think I ever heard something like this before! Amazing mix of jazz, rock, hip hop and they don't stop. The lyrics are poetic. Songs about the mess the capitalist society brings. The layout and illustrations are also great! I think that everyone who wants to hear something different for a change got to get this album which is on the Canadian G7Welcomingcommittee. Give a good listen to the songs 'year of the car crash', 'attention to deficit' and 'friday night'. I can't think of anything more to say than: Get this record! Bart

Wasted - Can't Wash Off The Stains MCD (Combat Rock Industry)

This the 7th release (including 7's) from this punk rock band from Finland. A mini cd with 5 songs in the vein of Bad Religion, Bombshell Rocks and Social Distortion. The songs are solid as a mountain and they have high sing-along alloy. So if this is getting you interested in this band that is playing this kind of music since 1996 than order this MCD and you won't regret it. For the latest updates about them you can check www.combatrockindustry.com/wasted.
Carel Groenen

Waterdown - The files you have on me CD (Victory Records)

I was very excited about this record. When I heard Waterdown's first album, "Never Kill The Boy On The First Date", I was quite surprised how they know to fit such diversity in one cd. This release proves that this was only the beginning. "The Files You Have On Me" is more balanced, more well considered. It contains great tracks as "A

REVIEWS

ALBUM

We will not review promo-only material. We believe a band wants to share more than only their music. Therefore we will only review releases with their ACTUAL artwork/packaging and full lyrics.

Fortress" or "Transient" which will be appreciated by fans of Finch, The Used, a sniff of Atreyu and the rocking edge of Boy Sets Fire. Waterdown always caught much attention because it was one of the few European bands on the roster of Victory Records. I am sure they put back Europe and especially Germany back on the map of this piece of dirt called planet earth when it comes to hardcore-music. Joost van Ingen

Where Eagles Dare - In a Thousand Words or Less MCD (Endwell Records)
WED have that same power Ten Yard Fight and Floorpunch had when they were still around, and it is done in a way of the most straight forward songs Stretch Armstrong ever put out. And it is so fast and energetic, it makes me jump for joy. No nonsense hardcore that is all about passion and sincerity. What's there to say, this is a band to keep an eye out for. Martijn Welzen

Wiseguy - Burning the Tracks CD (Stardumb Records)
This is a surprising release from the Stardumb factory, because the guys from Wiseguy are not playing the punk rock we are more or less used to hear from this label. No, this album sounds much more Rock and Roll than Punk. Started in 1995, these guys grew out to real rock and roll heroes. With the eleven songs on this release they put Rotterdam (NL) on the international rock map. So if you like

Rock make sure to check out these guys, but also when you like punk music check them because they have the right attitude. More info about Wiseguy you can find on www.sleaze-rock.com.
Carel Groenen

XdoaneX - Punk Rock Hardcore Filmmaking DVD (Victory Records)
Darren Doane is one of the acclaimed directors of punkrock and hardcore videos and although he has also worked with big acts like Jimmy Eat World and Blink 182, he return to the underground every now and then to shoot a vid. This DVD is a collection of 16 of those underground videos that go beyond the Victory roster. Band featured: Poison the Well, Thursday, Underoath, Snapcase, Strife, Strong Arm, Sick of it All, Shadow's Fall, Living Sacrifice and a bunch of others. Every video has it's own distinctive story but in some way the input of Doane can be found in every single one of them. This is a really cool collection of video's and with the bonus features (like "Behind the Scenes", and interview with Darren, photo's, and an interview and art gallery of Derek Hess (who also designed the packaging)). One of the most interesting hardcore / punkrock DVD's I have come across, and I hope labels will develop this media even more in the future.
Martijn Welzen

Zeke - Live and Uncensored CD (Dead Teenager Records)
The Kings of Speedrock. One of the major influences for our own Peter Pan that's for sure. And excellent hardrocking mix of Motörhead, GangGreen and Monster Magnet will blow you away. Starting out with eight studio tracks (four of which are unreleased), followed by no less than 25 live tracks. Sheer madness, fast sonic violence, sluggish swamp rock and the rancid smell of beer and cigarettes. A thick sound you would need an axe to get through to the stage where the scum of the earth is partying. Sound quality isn't top of the bill, but if you love the band you need this one. This band is ever so close to the real punk core of the early eighties, and will leave many so called punk bands standing alone in the dessert. And to the band; "Zeke you very much!"
Martijn Welzen

Zorro - First Race MCD (Middle Class Pig Records)
Don't like the singer. A track like "The Driver" is completely wrecked because the vocals are way to prominent in the mix. The heavy sluggish guitar riffs and the rock foundation are nice, but also a bit to slow for my taste, and the bass guitar is killed in the mix too. Think Peter Pan Speedrock combined with Queens of the Stone slowing down to doomy stoner proportions. It's too much of demo sound, and the power is lacking. The sound quality Black Sabbath could get way with in the 70's doesn't apply to the new millennium. Work needs to be done here.
Martijn Welzen

Z/28 - Wrecks from the Highway CD (JSNTGM Records)
Why does everybody keep saying Elvis died? He keeps on popping up in various rock n roll and punkrock bands across the globe. He's got to earn a living too, now he gave up singing in Vegas, right? Z/28 combine spicy rock n roll, with punk and of course the king on vocals. Good, fast barbecue rock! Slap a burger on the fire first and have a couple of beers, and a huge party. Get behind the wheel, totally drunk, put the stereo to maximum and become a wreck on the highway. The Dukes of Hazzard tune got covered go figure.
Martijn Welzen

ZINE REVIEWS (...and one book review)

Fracture #23 A4, 92 pages, in English (Unit 100, 61 Wellfield Road, Cardiff, CF 24 3 DG, UK)
I just can't emphasise this enough. Fracture zine is mandatory for all those punks out there who consider themselves "into it". #23 is no exception to that. Although I have to say there probably have been some problems with getting everything done in time, since some parts of the zine look like they have been done a bit hasty. The layout isn't as cool as with the previous issues and the reviews section has taken over a part of the zine (400 items this time.... Wow), that is a bit over the top. Nevertheless cool features on D4 vs. the Arrivals, Hans Sobermind, Sound Idea and Robots. Columns about the world of punk make it once again a zine to sink your teeth into. Just send 3 euros, for postage, over to the address above or try to pick one up at one of the distro's (it is free you know!!).
Martijn Welzen

Le Zine #1 April 2003 (A3, 24 pages, in English, Dutch and French)
Le Zine has been around for a while, but from a free new paper it has transformed into a nice looking monthly magazine. I really like reading this zine since it goes beyond the boundaries of hardcore and punkrock (there's a Prodigy interview in here). They have tried to keep the layout under control since the use of three different languages (English, French and Dutch) is already confusing in itself, especially where in some reviews all languages are used to tell the same. Although my French isn't that strong I'd still suggest to stick to that language since that is what most of the editors do speak the best, and it is already the biggest of the three. Some bands featured in this zine new style are: Biohazard, Mad Caddies, Shandon, and Roger Miret, plus a couple of "non hardcore" interviews. If you're not going to get confused by this little Babylonian you can get Le Zine for EUR 2,50 through: Le Zine, 14 Rue Petite Coyarde, 1367 Mont-St-Andre, Belgium.

Mass Movement #14 May 2003 (A5, too many pages to count, but divided into three volumes, in English)
Tim? Have I told you you're nuts? Okay getting your zine divided in two like with #13 was something of an oddity, but now it's three parts...no actually three separate zines for the price of one (how's that for a commercial). First we get the more known version of MM, with the great columns, the reviews and interviews with Belvedere, I Adapt, Stuntnace, Closet Monster and a couple of other features. This one alone is worth the read. Then we get the encore for this zine in another volume which has features on Avail, Broken Bones, Smackdown plus a couple of others and a feature called "Fuck the mainstream" (now you're really wondering what that's all about aren't ya?). And when you're down and out on the floor trying to comprehend all this info. You'll see that there's a third chapter with the superb name "Trash metal special", Anthrax, Shadows Fall, Nuclear Assault, Testament and Vio-lence are best know and there's a feature about how trash metal has touched the lives of a couple of freaks (I'm allowed to say freaks, 'cause I'm one of them haha). Most interviews are a nice read, some could have gone a bit deeper, but I've enjoyed it once again. Want it? Need it? Send and email to: info@insideknowledge.net. We should have some of the around here.
Martijn Welzen

Pure And Simple Rock and Roll Propaganda #7 A4 32 pages, in English, Free
And here is already the seventh edition of Pure and Simple. Founder, Interviewer, Reviewer and Designer, Marnix v Holland, is working his ass off to keep this zine going and every time he is getting better and better. In this issue better interviews, the reviews as shitty as ever, and because of the better interviews he didn't have to much time for the layout (and maybe that's positive, because the zine is looking more underground than ever). In this one interviews with: The Forgotten, Avail, The Ritchy Whites, Ducky Boys, Flogging Molly, Agnostic Front, On the Rise, Sinners and Saints, Antiseen, Radio 69, The Porters and the Disasters, and there is also a zine interview with High Heels Slut. So you see, there is enough to read, try to get your hands on this one. For info mail to mrmigie@hotmail.com.
Carel Groenen

You're Not Alone Hardcore Punk zine Issue #1 and #2 A4, 20 pages, in English, Free
A new fanzine from the Netherlands. And the first look is very good, nice and clear layout. Their drive to start this zine is according to the founders is: "We try to give hardcore/punk/oil/rock 'n roll bands an opportunity to ventilate their thoughts in our zine." And when it works out there will be a new issue of Y/N/A every 2 months. The first issue was released in January 2003 and contained interviews with: Argy Bargy / The Unseen / Disturbance/ Hudson Falcons/Core Tex records / Roger Miret and the Disasters. And in March 2003 their second issue appeared in this one interviews with: Terror / Murphys Law / One Man Army / WOOF! Guilty / The Spook / Evil Conduct / Vodka Juniors. In issue #1 the interviews are a little short and it was clear that the interviews were done by E-mail, in issue #2 the interviews are already a lot better, and that is a positive thing to see. So I'm waiting for #3 right now. Check www.yourenotalone.tk for more info and release dates.
Carel Groenen

Book review Matthias Mader - This Is Boston Not NewYork BOOK (IP Verlag)
This book is amazing! Everything you need to know about the early Boston punk scene is being talked about in detail in this nice little book. It all started in the early 80's with bands such as SSD, DYS, Ganggreen, The Freeze and got taken over by Dropkick Murphy's and Blood For Blood some years later, with still a truckload of bands in between. More than excellent interviews with Curtis of Taang! Records, Dave Smalley of Down By Law, Al Bar (Dropkick Murphy's) Cliff Hanger (The Freeze) and a couple of interesting persons who were there in the very beginning. The rise of the Boston scene, the rivalry with NYC, the connection with DC, the influences, friendship, fights, shows, party's, releases and the straight edge. And there's more... great and extensive discographies of all the bands that have formed Boston throughout the years. For sure there are more bands around these days that could have been mentioned, but the core has got to be the "Boston crew", it's ups and downs. Pretty essential reading if you ask me, but only if you understand German!
Martijn Welzen

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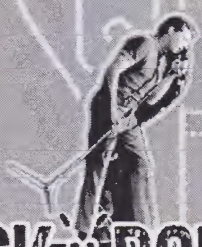
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